هكذا من الاصل

SEVEN SECTIONS: THE BEST VALUE SATURDAY PAPER



YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO EASTER VIEWING





THE TIMES

40p

No. 66,173 SATURDAY APRIL 11 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

Ulster chooses hope over hate

Courage has triumphed, says Blair as two governments and eight political parties sign up to a new future

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent and Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR declared last night that "courage has triumphed" as two governments and eight political parties signed up to a new future for Northern Ireland.

He hailed a settlement that would give everyone the chance to live in peace and raise their children free from the shadow of fear.

The accord brings the Unionist and nationalist traditions — including Sinn Fein — together in fresh political structures that offer the hope of ending 30 years of bloodshed that have cost 3,200 lives. There will be a new power-sharing Northern Ireland assembly, institutions linking the North with the Republic, the start of arms decommissioning and the conditional release of all paramilitary prisoners. And for the first time, the Republic has accepted that Northern Ireland will remain in the UK for as long as a majority desire it; at the same time those who believe in a united Ireland have the means to make their case by persuasion and not violence.

President Clinton, who made a critical intervention in the last hour of the talks and will visit the Province next month, said that Ulster had chosen "hope over hate, the promise of the future over the poison of the past."

After another cliffhanging day at Stormont, a marathon session of 33 hours of non-stop talks suddenly ended with the announcement of a deal just after 5pm.

With David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party in turmoil, an anxious Mr Blair called in the President to help after an eleventh hour dispute over the decommissioning of IRA arms threatened to wreck all the progress that had been made.

However, last night there were doubts over whether Mr Trimble would be able to deliver on his side of the deal because of opposition within his own party. Jeffrey Donaldson, one of his negotiators, suddenly raised objections to the idea of Unionists sitting down with Sinn Fein members in the new Assembly committees if they had not renounced violence and before decommissioning got under way.

Mr Trimble raised the issue in a tense meeting and also asked for an assurance that the agreement's passages on decommissioning meant that the process of giving up arms should be started straightaway. Mr Blair's initial assurances that that was what the deal meant clearly failed to satisfy Mr Trimble's party and word spread around the Stormont complex that the whole agreement might be scuppered.

The Prime Minister urgently called Mr Clinton at about 4.15pm. The President then spoke to Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister; Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president; Mr Trimble and John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP.

The danger was that if Mr Blair made a fresh concession to Mr Trimble the nationalists might start to unpick the whole deal. In the end Mr Blair wrote formally to Mr Trimble over his concerns that decisions on excluding or removing people from office are to be taken on a cross-community basis. Mr Blair promised that if those proposals proved during the first six months of the Assembly to be ineffective, changes would be made to prevent unsuitable people from holding office.

The settlement will be put to referendums North and South of the border on May 22. The main planks of the agreement, contained in a 69-page document that will go to every home in Northern Ireland, are:

A 108-member assembly with ten parliamentary constituencies each electing six members this June under a single transferable vote system of proportional representation.

The assembly's ministers will meet Irish ministers in a new council. This will have six cross border bodies to implement ministers' decisions in areas that the assembly must agree by October or be disbanded. The assembly will decide how much autonomy its ministers should have.

Mr Trimble and Mr Adams could almost certainly sit together on a new 12 member executive drawn fom the assembly.

Dublin will end its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland.

Paramilitary prisoners will be released within two or three years provided their organisations maintain their ceasefire.

A new British-Irish Council will bring together representatives of the British and Irish Governments and the new Northern Ireland, Welsh and Scottish assemblies.

Mr Blair recalled how he had said he felt the hand of history: "Today I hope that the burden of history can at long last start to be lifted from our shoulders," he said. "Even now this will not work unless in your will and your mind you make it work — unless you extend the hand of friendship to those who were once your foes. "It will take more of the courage we have shown. But it need not mean more of the pain. We have carried out the will of the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the chance to live in peace and to raise their children out of the shadow of fear."

Mr Trimble, who was praised throughout by Mr Blair and others for joining the talks, shrugged off his party divisions. He said: "We rise from this table knowing that the Union is stronger than when we sat down ... the struggle that has lasted 12 years for justice and equality for Unionists in this land has succeeded."

Mr Adams, whose party conference will vote on the deal next Saturday, signalled his support when he said: "Republicans and nationalists will come to this document some with scepticism, most with hope. They will ask whether it offers a chance for the way forward. And when we have democratically come to a conclusion we will tell the world."

Mr Ahern said the agreement "marks a new beginning for all of us. Today is about the promise of a bright future: a day when we hope a line can be drawn under a bloody past."



Rollercoaster ride ..... Page 4
Magnus Linklater ..... Page 5
The long road ..... Page 6
Leading article ..... Page 23

LYNNE SLADKY



Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, left, and Tony Blair shake hands after announcing a settlement yesterday

THE MAIN POINTS

- A Northern Ireland Assembly made up of 108 members, six elected by PR from each of the existing 18 Westminster constituencies
- A First Minister and Deputy First Minister, likely to be David Trimble, as leader of the largest party, and John Hume, leader of the SDLP, as deputy
- The Assembly would have powers to legislate and take over the running of government departments such as agriculture and education
- Its first responsibility would be to set up a North-South Ministerial Council to direct co-operation on a series of issues. The Assembly will be suspended if it does not establish the co-operative body within a year
- A new British-Irish Council. Members will be drawn from the Northern Ireland Assembly, the British and Irish Governments, and devolved bodies in Wales and Scotland
- The Irish Government will amend Articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, which lay claim to Northern Ireland. London will repeal the 1920 Government of Ireland Act
- The British Government will reduce numbers of police and armed forces and remove security installations
- All participants will reaffirm commitment to decommissioning of weapons and to work with Independent International Commission on Decommissioning
- An Independent Commission will be established on the future of policing in Northern Ireland

FULL COVERAGE — PAGES 4, 5 AND 6

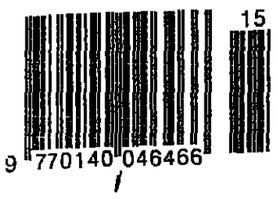


In truth, it never was hopeless, although doggedness and patience were needed as frequently as inventiveness
John Major, page 22

WEATHER 30
CROSSWORD 30
COURT & SOCIAL 24
LETTERS 23
OBITUARIES 25
SIMON JENKINS 22
THEATRES 21
BUSINESS NEWS 27-29
UNIT TRUSTS 48
SHARE PRICES 26
MONEY 49-60
SPORT 31-44

WEEKEND
GARDENING 9, 10
PROPERTY 12-14
TRAVEL 23-31
FAITH 21

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 60; Belgium B Frs 110; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 36.50; France F 18.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 900; Netherlands Fl 6.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 100; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 40.00; Norway Kr 30.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 35.00; Switzerland S Frs 5.50; Tunisia Din 4.750; USA $3.50.



Two die in worst floods for 50 years

By Adrian Lee and Helen Johnstone

TWO people died and two were feared drowned yesterday as the worst floods for more than 50 years hit the Midlands and East Anglia.

The Bank Holiday was washed out by rain and snowfalls of up to three inches. Roads and public transport were in chaos and the sporting programme was badly hit. More than 30 communities were put on flood warning last night as rivers threatened to burst their banks.

A 14-year-old boy was washed out of a milkman's delivery van when it was swept off the road, at Eathorpe, near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. The driver, who had been trying to negotiate abandoned cars early yesterday, managed to scramble free and was treated for hypothermia.

Paramedics could not reach the submerged van and police said hope was fading for the teenager from Coventry who was earning pocket money during his school holiday. The Army and sniffer dogs joined the search.

An elderly woman who was found dead inside a flooded house in Northampton is believed to have drowned as floodwaters overwhelmed her as she slept. Police said she was in her 80s.

The body of a middle-aged man was recovered from the flooded River Mead caravan site near Evesham in Hereford and Worcester. Water levels there rose by 15 feet, exceeding the previous record set during the great floods of 1947. It is thought the victim drowned or suffered a heart attack as he tried to escape a torrent of water from which 26 other people were rescued. Two other people were still unaccounted for.

A 33-year-old woman who fell off a narrowboat into the swollen waters of the River Nene, near Northampton, was also feared drowned.

Hundreds of residents in Leamington, Banbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, Northampton and Evesham were evacuated. Last night parts of Oxford were also under threat. The Environment Agency said areas affected were suffering the worst flooding in living memory. Red alerts were issued along most of the River Avon, the River Cherwell in Oxfordshire, and for the first time in 25 years, the River Evenlode in Oxfordshire.

In Southam, Warwickshire, 1,000 people were evacuated from their homes and spent the night in a local school.

The A1 was closed between Peterborough and Brampton in Cambridgeshire, the A14 was shut at Huntingdon, and hundreds of trains were cancelled. Passengers on those that did get through faced long delays: the London-to-Glasgow sleeper arrived eight hours late. Virgin Trains said it might have to suspend services if flooding around Rugby worsened.

Temperatures fell to -9C in the Highlands and there were snowfalls in Devon and the Midlands.

The AA said many people appeared to have heeded advice not to travel and had abandoned Easter breaks. Those flying abroad for respite faced unsettled weather in most of Europe. Forecasters said the slow-moving front which saturated central England would bring more rain. Clearer, cold weather would follow later today.

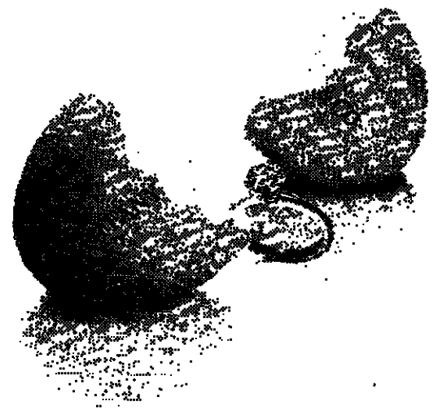
The Meteorological Office predicted that flooding over the whole country will worsen considerably before the end of Easter as rain over the hills drains to areas of lower ground by Monday.

Narrow escapes ..... Page 2
Inland sea ..... Page 3
Insurance claims ..... Page 51
Forecast ..... Page 30



Wash-out: one man and his dog in Cropredy, Oxfordshire

©TBCA 1998



PERFECT BEGINNINGS

TIFFANY & CO.
SINCE 1837
LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET W1
HARRODS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0171-409 2790

Survivors tell story of rescue from floods

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE AND ADRIAN LEE

A RESCUE operation was launched across the Midlands and parts of East Anglia yesterday as record floods swamped scores of communities. Survivors spoke of narrow escapes and daring rescues.

John Barnham, 54, a farmer, from Pershore, Hereford and Worcester, was plucked from the roof of his Land Rover before it was swept away by flood water. Firemen were unable to reach his vehicle, stranded in the middle of a swollen brook in the village of Pinvin. He managed to grab a rope which was lowered by a police helicopter crew and was lifted 200 yards to dry land. He was treated for hypothermia.

Sergeant Ian Edgington, who was on board the helicopter, said: "It was clear that the fire brigade had exhausted all normal means of rescuing the man. Time was running out and we were aware that he could be swept away at any time." Across the county 800 firefighters used dozens of boats and helicopters to reach stranded people.

Survivors described how they were winched to safety as water surged through a caravan park, at Abbots Morton, Hereford and Worcester. Firemen initially used three inflatable boats to reach 46 holidaymakers but one hit a submerged tractor, throwing several people into the water. Sonia Broughton, 54, said: "We were on the boat and it suddenly burst. I clung on to a mobile chalet but an elderly lady couldn't hold on and was starting to get swept away."

Mrs Broughton and her husband Cyril, 75, managed to pull the woman out of the water and inside the chalet until the helicopter arrived. "We honestly thought we were about to die," she said.

In Evesham, one of the towns worst affected by the flooding of the River Avon, pensioners were rescued from their homes. A school and a leisure centre were used to house evacuees. The market town of Ledbury was cut off.

Nineteen anglers were rescued by an RAF Sea King helicopter and fire service boats after they became stranded on an island in a lake near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, when the water level rose nine feet in an hour.

Performances at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon were postponed because of flooding. Also in Warwickshire, several people were taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia after spending the night in their cars on the flooded A423 near Princethorpe. A 14th-century bridge at Shipston on Stour was washed away. Army engineers using inflatable boats joined rescue operations.

In Leamington Spa a woman clung to a lamp post for an hour until firemen reached her. At the nearby Fosse Way, two men were pulled by helicopter from their semi-submerged lorry.

Police said Northamptonshire was suffering a "major emergency".

Hopes were fading for a woman, 33, believed to have fallen from a narrowboat on the River Nene.

A spokesman said: "We have 1,000 homes in Northampton alone affected so that must mean thousands of people. At least one person has died, pets have died, livestock have died. Hundreds of officers, virtually every available officer, have been called in." Police appealed for boat owners to help.

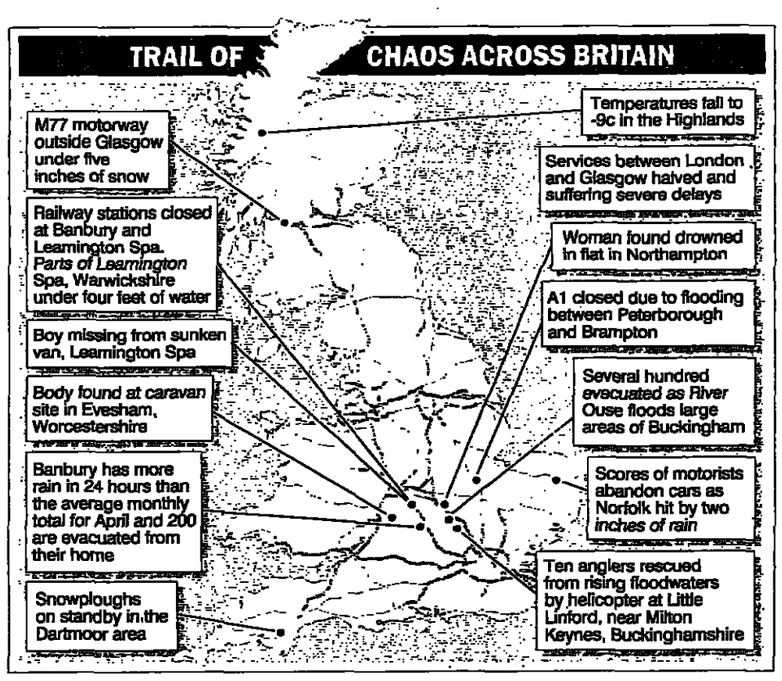
In Cambridgeshire, police said the Huntingdon and Peterborough areas remained badly affected. Many roads in the Midlands were strewn with abandoned vehicles.

Leading article, page 23

MARTYN HAYHOW/PA



Rescue party: police using dinghies to ferry flat-owners away from their flooded apartments in the Grimsbury area of Banbury yesterday



Dismal forecast for week ahead

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE dreadful Easter weather is set to remain throughout Europe for the next seven days. Low pressure over Britain means the heavy cloud, constant rain and cold wind are forecast and further snow is predicted in the Scottish hills.

Only the North West of England may experience a respite, possibly glimpsing the sun by the weekend. Scotland is expected to be cold and clear.

The Met Office had warned police, local councils and river authorities to expect torrential rain before the deluge, which brought floods and devastation to large parts of middle England.

A spokesman said the long-range forecast last weekend had said that up to two inches of rain would fall on Thursday, prompting them to issue the warnings.

He said Oxfordshire and Warwickshire had taken the brunt of the downpour because the rain system had been very slow moving. He added: "We have been saying all week that the Easter period would be cold, wet and miserable."

More heavy rain is expected in England and Wales today but Scotland is expected to be cold and clear.

The rest of Western Europe will remain unsettled, with frequent showers and strong winds continuing. Even skiers in the Alps are unlikely to see the sun and will experience very low tempeatures.

Forecast, page 30

Nowhere to run for the sunshine seekers

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE dash to escape miserable Easter weather ended in disappointment for many. Northern Spain and Portugal were also experiencing the cold blast, with thundery showers and biting winds reducing temperatures to 43F.

Although southern Spain and the Balearics fared a little better, strong breezes forced temperatures down to 65F, well below normal for the time of year. In Morocco and southern France, the unsettled weather continued, with stiff northwesterly winds and frequent downpours.

Crete and Cyprus enjoyed dry weather, hot sun and a refreshing Mediterranean breeze. Further afield, Jamaica topped the sunshine destinations, with clear blue skies and humid temperatures in the 80s, interrupted by the odd warm shower. Showers drenched Barbados and Antigua. Early morning cloud in Florida was followed by a sunny afternoon.

British airports expected a 3 per cent increase in passengers over Easter — almost 900,000 people travelled from Heathrow and Gatwick — due to a combination of poor weather at home and the strong pound. The most popular destinations were Dublin (cold and unsettled), Amsterdam (showers) and New York (cold, but becoming warmer).

A spokesman for the Meteorological Office said: "Many parts of southern Europe could be quite unpleasant. The eastern Mediterranean — Greece and Crete — are probably the best bets for sun."

☐ Snow showers and Arctic winds gusting at 40mph that swept across northern Scotland looked set to continue over the Easter weekend. The conditions meant that three of Scotland's five ski centres had enough fresh snow for sport — at Cairngorm, The Lecht and the Nevis Range near Fort William.

The Highlands and north and eastern coasts were the worst affected areas as northerly winds blew freezing rain in from the sea, but forecasters said that few places would escape the unseasonal snow.

Save over £300 in the Tiny Easter Sale!

HOME ENTERPRISE VALUE SYSTEM
Including printer and unbeatable software package.
It's the PC Easter Sale bargain of bargains from Tiny. Just look at the super specification and the brilliant software package. There's nothing to touch it in the High Street. But we can only hold this price while stocks last!

- Intel Pentium® II Processor 266 MHz
- 64MB FAST SD RAM
- 6.4GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 4MB 3D AGP Arcade Quality Graphics
- 32 Speed Max CD ROM Drive
- Wavetable 32 3D Integrated Soundcard plus 180 Watt PMPO Speakers
- 56Kbps Voice Fax/Modem
- Epson Stylus 300 Colour Printer
- Over £820 of Software including Microsoft Flight Simulator 98 & Dorling Kindersley Educational Software
- Windows 95

THE BIG, HIGH-QUALITY SOFTWARE BONUS.
OVER £800 OF SOFTWARE INCLUDED
Only Tiny gives you the outstanding software you want and need for your PC (complete with back-up disks)... latest Microsoft titles and Dorling Kindersley educational software plus stunning AGP games.

MICROSOFT FAMILY '98:
- MS Works 4.5 (Spreadsheet, Word Processor, Database)
- MS Encarta '98 (Encyclopaedia)
- MS CD Sampler
- MS Money '98 (Home Finance)
- 3D Movie Maker
- MS Golf Version 3
- Flight Simulator 98

HOME ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE:
- Bodyworks
- Kitchen Gourmet
- Design IT! 3D
- The Oregon Trail
- Home Gardener
- Typing Teacher
- Reading Journey
- Berlitz French

DORLING KINDERSLEY:
- Childrens Encyclopaedia
- The Way Things Work 2
- Encyclopaedia of Science 2
- Encyclopaedia of Nature 2
- Childrens Dictionary

AGP GAMES:
- G Police
- Redline Racer
- Jazz Jackrabbit 2

WAS £1399 £1643.53†
NOW ONLY £1119 ex VAT £1314.83† inc VAT

PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999

BIG SAVINGS ON ALL OTHER TINY PCs STARTING FROM £646 inc VAT

PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999 NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT
REPAYMENT EXAMPLE
HOME ENTERPRISE VALUE SYSTEM
PC cash price £1346.55 (inc delivery £27+VAT @ 17.5%). Pay whole balance on or before due payment date interest free. Alternatively, pay 36 monthly payments of £65.76 total amount payable £2367.36. APR 26.8%. Interest is calculated from day one of agreement. Written quotations upon request. Finance subject to status.

FOR MORE INFORMATION FREEPHONE 0800 731 9372
tiny
THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET
TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB. FAX 01293 822 514. www.tinycomp.co.uk
All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. Tiny Computers Limited is part of the DT group. Prices exclude delivery†.

60 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

ALTRINCHAM	GLOUCESTER	NEWCASTLE
BELFAST	GUILDFORD	NORTHAMPTON
BIRMINGHAM	HUDDERSFIELD	NORWICH
BOLTON	HULL	NOTTINGHAM
BRIGHTON	ILFORD	OXFORD
BRISTOL	IPSWICH	PETERBOROUGH
BROMLEY	KINGSTON	PLYMOUTH
CAMBRIDGE	LAKESIDE	READING
CANTERBURY	LEEDS	ROMFORD
CARDIFF	LEICESTER	SHREWSBURY
CHELMSFORD	LIVERPOOL	SOLIHULL
CHELTENHAM	LINCOLN	SOUTHAMPTON
CHESTER	LONDON W1	STOKE
COVENTRY	LONDON SW10	SUTTON
CRAWLEY	LONDON EC2	SWINDON
CROYDON	LUTON	TUNBRIDGE WELLS
EALING	MANCHESTER	WATFORD
EDINBURGH	MEADOWHALL	WOLVERHAMPTON
EXETER	SHEFFIELD	WORCESTER
GLASGOW	MILTON KEYNES	YORK

MOST SHOWROOMS OPEN THROUGHOUT EASTER PLEASE PHONE FOR DETAILS

STAPLES The Office Superstore

AMAZING EASTER DEALS

£29.99 INC VAT
BULLDOG TOWER WORKSTATION
SKU 300806
- Beech finish
- Sliding keyboard and mouse shelves

£14.99 INC VAT
TYPIST CHAIR
SKU 300798
- Blue
- Seat height adjustment

Office Seating

Computer & accessories not included.

41 SUPERSTORES NATIONWIDE CANTERBURY NOW OPEN

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE
FREEFONE* 0800 141414
*Call for details. All items subject to availability.

STAPLES Copy Centre
- Black & White Copies
- Colour Copies
- Binding & Laminating
- Custom Printing
- Custom Stamps

EASTER OPENING TIMES

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SATURDAY 9am-6pm
SUNDAY closed
EASTER MONDAY 9am-6pm

150% ULTIMATE PRICE PROTECTION
Show us a lower locally advertised price. We'll match it 100% PLUS give you 50% of the difference (up to £25) as a refund now or within 30 days of your purchase. Call or ask in store for full terms & conditions.

How they woke up to the great flood

New lakes, a boat like the Ark, and cancelled trains

BY JOANNA BALE

RETURNING to her Banbury apartment after a night at her mother's, Sue Dawes was ill-prepared for the sight that met her eyes. As she walked around the corner into Victoria Place, a smart new modern development, she was stopped in her tracks by a vast lake which filled the courtyard leading to her front door.

Dotted around were the roofs of half-submerged cars and two of her neighbours were forlornly wading through the knee-deep floodwaters in Wellingtons. Miss Dawes, 30, who had gone to her mother's after getting stranded on the M40 on her way home from work, gasped in horror, then whipped off her designer trainers, exclaiming: "The water might have ruined my flat, but there's no point ruining my trainers as well."

After wading to her door in stockinged feet, she was delighted to discover that the water, which was subsiding fast, had not reached as high as her first floor flat. Her neighbour, John Batchelor, was not so lucky. His ground floor flat was flooded with three feet of water when the River Cherwell burst its banks shortly before 1am yesterday. He said: "I awoke to people shouting outside and hammering on my front door. I couldn't believe what was happening. Water was gushing through my entire flat.

"All I could do was lift my TV on to the bed. I only had time to pick up my most valuable possessions. Within half an hour the water was three feet deep. It is dark, grungy water which has ruined everything: my carpets, curtains and furniture. It's a nightmare."

Describing his rescue, he added: "The police and fire crews came and helped people out in their inflatable boats, but I saw little of the Blitz spirit. I was forced to spend the night at my factory in Overthorpe. No one offered me a bed for the night: it was miserable and cold." PC Noel Thackeberry of Thames Valley police, who was at the scene all night, said: "We had to ferry 16 people across the flooded expanse in our two inflatables. One old lady, who was disabled and couldn't walk, was lying on her bed and screaming for help."

Dozens of people who had to rescued from canal boats when the Oxford Canal burst its banks at Banbury were counting the cost of their ruined holidays. Ruth Winter and Matthew Neiland had spent five days cruising through the Oxfordshire countryside when they moored up for the night to wait for the heavy rain to pass.

After watching in horror as the canal rose several feet then burst its banks, they tried to summon help. Recounting their ordeal from a rescue centre in Banbury, where they had been taken for shelter, Ms Winter, a teacher from Leicester, said: "We had an emergency number which the boat company had given us before we set off, but every time we called it, the phone was switched off.

"Eventually we called the police. We knew things were bad because the police helicopter had been flying over the canal for a couple of hours. There were some boats ahead of us which were in worse trouble. They had drifted away from the canal and were looking like they were going to get caught up in the Cherwell which as rushing along at a heck of a speed."

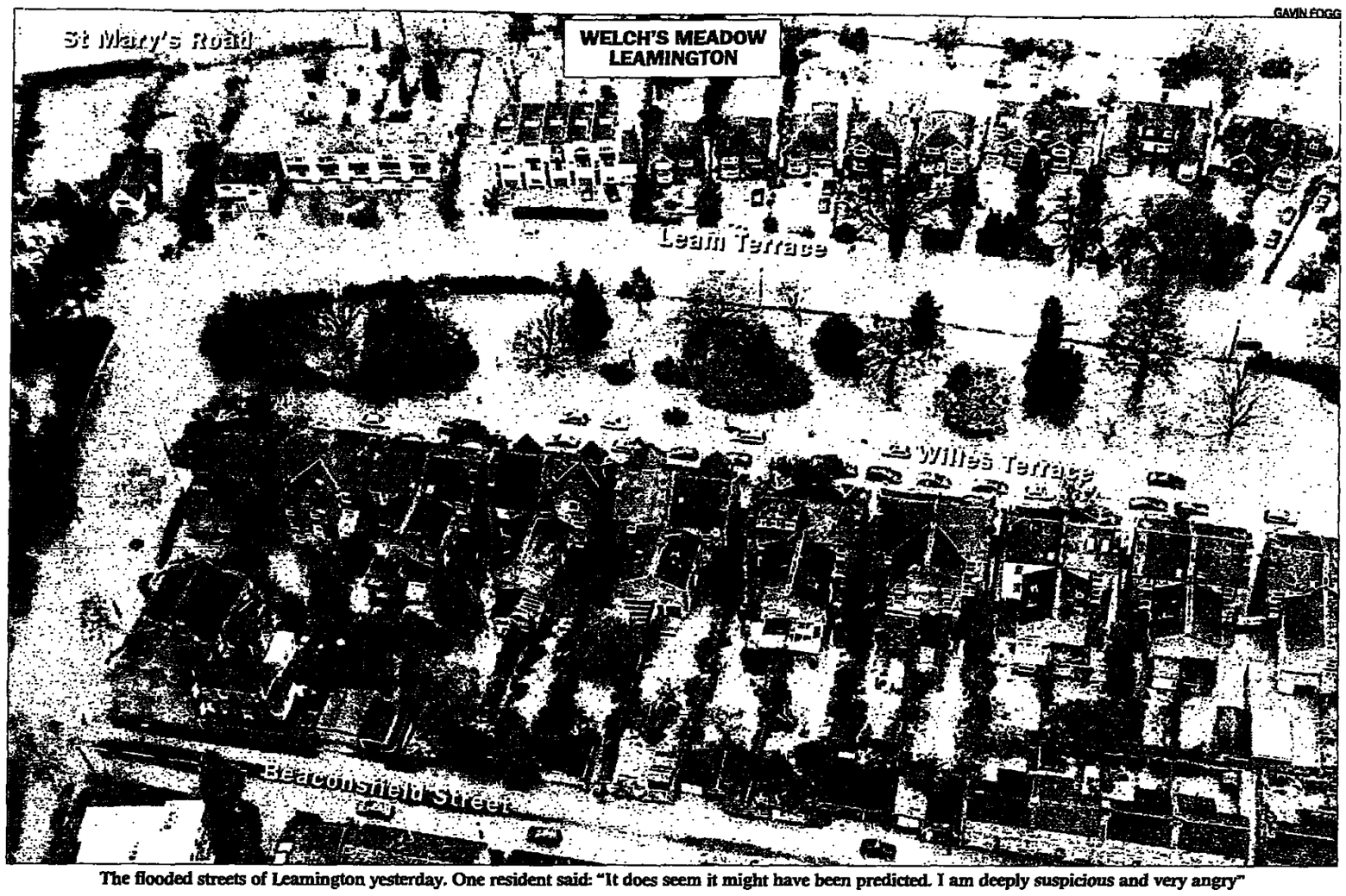
Eventually, they were rescued by the fire brigade in inflatable boats. Ms Winter added: "It was quite frightening, and we're glad to be back on dry land. Our boat was called *Reflection*, but it should be renamed the Ark because that's what it felt like at the time."

At Banbury railway station, all trains were cancelled after the tracks were submerged in four feet of floodwater. Fleets of buses were used to help passengers on their journeys and sevices from London to Birmingham were cancelled or redirected.

Simon Clarkson, who was on his way to visit his girlfriend in Birmingham for the weekend, said: "At least they've got a good excuse this time. I wouldn't be surprised if there are fish swimming along the tracks."

Around 130 people spent part of the night at Banbury Police station and nearby St Mary's school. At 8.30am yesterday, another shelter was opened at Drayton school when the numbers of "refugees" continued to pour in. Dozens of volunteers from the Red Cross and the WRVS helped social services cope with the influx and local businesses donated food.

GAVIN FOGG



The flooded streets of Leamington yesterday. One resident said: "It does seem it might have been predicted. I am deeply suspicious and very angry"

The streets that all became waterways

BY HELEN CASTELL, PAUL RAMSBOTTOM AND STEPHEN FARRELL

TREES and cars became beacons of colour in a sea of murky brown as streets flooded near the River Leam in Leamington, Warwickshire. By Welch's Meadow, householders were woken by car alarms in the early morning found cellars flooded waist high and contents of their freezers floating in ponds where their laundry rooms had been.

Leam Terrace, closest to the river, was the hardest hit. Some ground floors were under a foot of water. Willes Terrace and Beaconsfield Street had their cellars flooded, cars stranded, and back gardens under water. Some were evacuated to relatives houses until the waters subsided. others hired pumps to tackle levels which rose by 2ins an hour.

Using brooms to clear a foot of water off ruined carpets, Elizabeth Hayward, 76, of Leam Terrace, complained: "It was like trying to empty the Severn with a teacup."

Margaret Phythian-Adams, 60, of Willes Terrace, had 6ft of water in her cellar, and her daughter spent the morning up to her waist fishing the contents of an overturned freezer and cupboard with a child's fishing net.

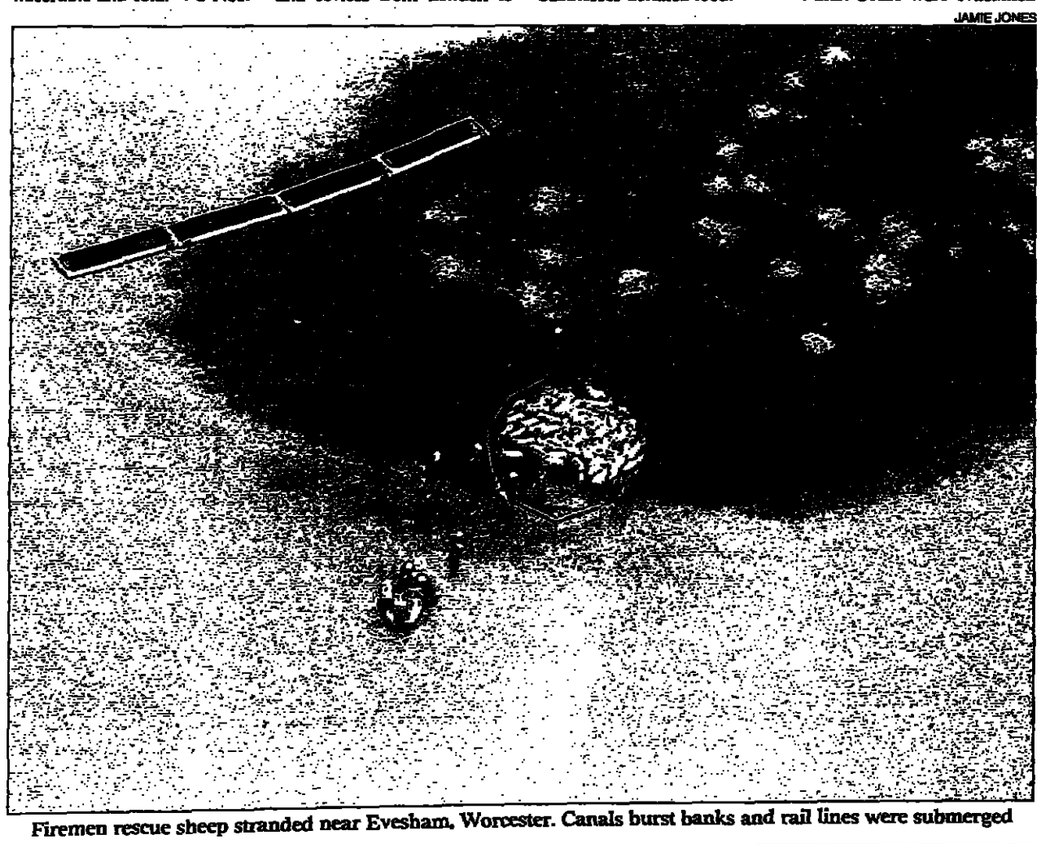
David Jenkins, 53, of Leam Terrace, said that his carpets came up when the ground floor of his three-storey Victorian house was flooded 2ft feet deep: "All the furniture was floating around. When we tried to go downstairs, it was just like a big paddling pool. We're just left with a soggy mess."

Dr Kevin Mullally, an osteopath who runs his practice from his Leam Terrace home, lost cases of paper towels and covers stored in his cellar. Unable to drive through the congested traffic, he cycled to buy waders before treating the two patients who did not cancel.

Brian Baker, 50, and his family were evacuated from their house in Beaconsfield Street house after his cellar was flooded to a depth of 6ft and water lapped into the kitchen. He said: "I woke up to go to work and the water was up to the bottom of the car door. I just couldn't open it. We can't even get into the cellar, it's up to the back door. Most people in the road have been pumping it out, one guy has had the pump going since 8am."

Rosalind Vinegrad lost family papers and photographs in the waist-high water filling her cellar. She said: "It does seem to me that it might have been predicted. The way the water suddenly declined struck me that was probably something to do with the sluices not being opened. I am deeply suspicious and very angry."

JAMIE JONES



Firemen rescue sheep stranded near Evesham, Worcester. Canals burst banks and rail lines were submerged

Rik Mayall hurt in bike accident

BY A CORRESPONDENT

RIK MAYALL was seriously ill in hospital last night after crashing a quad bike at his country retreat.

The 39-year-old actor and comedian airlifted by police helicopter from Pasture Farm, East Allington, near Kingsbridge, south Devon, to Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. A spokeswoman there confirmed he was suffering head injuries and that his condition was "stable".

The area has suffered from the torrential rain that has affected much of the rest of the country.

It is understood the quad bike toppled on to him as he rode across a steeply sloping field on Thursday evening. Mr Mayall bought the estate last year as a family retreat. It is not clear whether his wife of 12 years, Barabara, and three young children — Rosie, 11, Sidney, 9, and Bonnie, 2 — were with him at the time.

Villagers said he had been seen in the area on the day of the accident and it was assumed the family was spending Easter there. Susan Ferguson, landlady of the local pub, The Fortescue Arms, said: "We have heard about the accident but we know no details. Rik Mayall has popped in here a couple of times but he isn't really well known in the village.

"He is obviously pretty busy and since he bought the farm he hasn't spent much time here."

After starting out at London's Comic Strip, Mr Mayall appeared regularly on TV in *Saturday Live*, *The Comic Strip Presents* ... and *The New Statesman*.

Drivers told to avoid blackspots

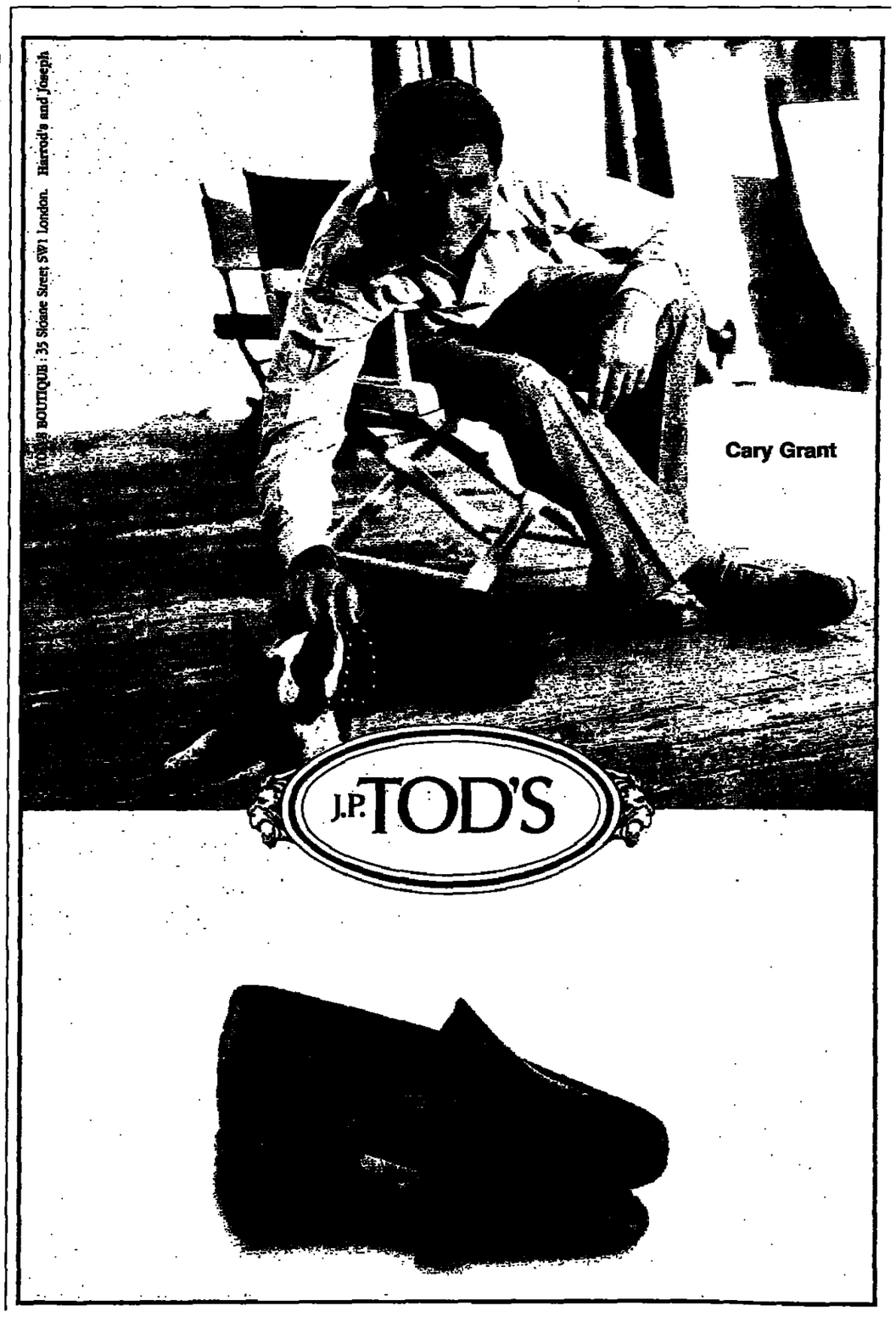
MOTORISTS have been warned to avoid blackspots over the weekend, especially around Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The RAC had advised motorists that travel should not be made unless completely necessary. Although most motorways, trunk and A roads are suffering from the bank holiday weekend congestion, the RAC hopes that they will not be affected by any flooding.

However, many minor roads, especially in Hereford, Gloucestershire, and Cambridgeshire, have been closed and continuing rain in Norfolk threatens to burst the banks of eleven rivers in the county, which would lead to widespread disruption on the county's roads.

Meanwhile, delays and cancellations on the railways are expected to worsen if the bad weather continues, with trains travelling through the Midlands suffering the worst delays and even cancellations. Silver Link, Thames Link, Virgin, Central and Connex South Central have already been affected by serious delays and flooding.

A spokesman for National Rail Inquiries advised passengers not to travel from Euston to either Manchester or Liverpool unless weather conditions improved. The Birminghman New Street to London line is also severly disrupted in Wolverhampton, and the line from London to Stratford upon Avon is being forced to terminate at Banbury because of flooding.



THE EASTER PEACE

Determination, snacks and adrenalin kept show on road

Hands-on negotiating skills and the involvement of two Prime Ministers were crucial in reaching a settlement after 33 hours, writes **Philip Webster**

IT WAS a rollercoaster four days in the quest for lasting peace in Northern Ireland. A negotiating session involving Ulster's political leaders with Tony Blair, Bertie Ahern and George Mitchell that began at 8am on Thursday and finally reached its destination after 33 hours.

As the participants emerged bleary-eyed to face the cameras, emotions ranged from delight, apprehension and — most of all — relief that it had ended at last.

It had been expected that the deal, which had been largely agreed during the night, would be unveiled in the morning. But Mr Mitchell's final draft slowed progress as the participants took a breath and fully came to terms with the agreement they were about to approve.

Mr Ahern went to the talks at their Stormont opening on Tuesday, returned to Dublin for his mother's funeral and then raced back to the north for a meeting with David Trimble and Mr Blair that many have called the most crucial of the summit.

There were no three-course meals, no alcohol. As he negotiated relentlessly in Stormont's castle buildings, Mr Blair was fuelled by snacks and adrenalin, surviving on the road to peace on tea, bacon sandwiches, cakes, Mars and Twix bars and lots of bananas.

Mr Blair sometimes infuriates those close to him by concentrating on only one big issue at a time. This one was huge and he focused on it completely. He went outside only once — for a brief stroll with Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, at 6.30pm on Thursday.

He slept not a wink, after managing just four hours the previous night at Hillsborough Castle. Last night he was in Madrid at the start of a brief holiday with his wife and children, tired but elated at having pulled off the greatest achievement of his premiership.

Throughout the Stormont sessions the shirtsleeved Prime Minister held countless meetings with all the key players. Party leaders took their problems to him, and Mr Ahern with George Mitchell, the talks chairman, were kept involved in all developments. But most of the key issues usually ended up on his oval teak table, surrounded by its 10 green chairs.

Mr Blair prides himself on being a good negotiator and drafted many of the contentious paragraphs in his own hand. Occasionally he lost his temper — exasperated when a participant against whom he needed to bounce an idea was elsewhere.

Mr Blair's family travelled to Spain ahead of him. Yesterday morning at around 7am he rang them to apologise for what would be a very late arrival. Almost certainly the biggest factor in his success was his decision to go with Mr Ahern to the final stages of the talks. Their very presence, the fact that two Prime Ministers were giving up so much of their time, concentrated minds and added to the determination to do a deal.

There were some who thought that the Unionists would ultimately walk away from the talks. It was Mr Trimble who urged Mr Blair to be there. But having asked him to go, the Ulster Unionist leader could not let him down. "He could not let Mr Blair return home in failure — that would probably have spelled the end for David as party leader," a Unionist source said.

The six key milestones on the way to a deal were:

☐ **April 1:** Mr Ahern make a sudden outburst that he had "serious disagreements" with London.

☐ **April 7:** Mr Trimble denounced the Mitchell draft plan and the Irish government for leaning unfairly towards Sinn Fein. The two declarations probably cancelled each other out.

☐ **Wednesday 7pm:** Mr Ahern flew in by helicopter from his mother's funeral in Dublin and went straight into a meeting with Mr Blair and Mr Trimble. Mr Trimble deeply appreciated Mr Ahern having arrived so quickly from a sad family event. According to a source, they looked each other in the eye and said that they were there because they wanted to get a deal. A massive psychological hurdle was removed.

☐ **Thursday 7pm:** A breakthrough on the vexed question of North-South bodies surfaced, rooting their authority in the new assembly.

☐ **Friday 2am:** Mitchel McLaughlin, Sinn Fein chairman, claimed that the talks were on the verge of collapse because too much had been conceded to the Unionists. There were rumours of a walkout.

☐ **Friday 7.15am:** The mood swung violently yet again. Mr McLaughlin walked through the snow to wake snoring journalists to claim progress on the North-South issue, the assembly and paramilitary prioners.

Suddenly the prospect of a deal that kept the Unionists and Sinn Fein on board — once unthinkable — was miraculously possible.

Mr Blair allowed himself no such thoughts. At previous briefings Mr Campbell had sounded more upbeat than the facts warranted. It was a ploy to retain momentum and keep everyone engaged.

Now at 8.15am, with a deal close, Mr Campbell was taking nothing for granted. Across the road Mr Blair was having a shower and shave. Was he not doing handstands to celebrate, Mr Campbell was asked. "If he is doing hand-stands he is doing them in the shower," he replied.

Next Friday Mr Blair he will be in the Middle East doing his bit to boost the flagging peace effort. It will be a reminder that a peace accord is usually easier to negotiate than to put into effect.

DIARY OF A SUMMIT



Bertie Ahern: funeral

Flight straight to talks from mother's funeral was critical in convincing Unionists a deal was possible

PETER JORDAN/PA



David Trimble with Jeffrey Donaldson, left, the MP who kept the deal on a knife-edge with his reservations

The man who said no

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

UNIONIST DIVISIONS

ONE man kept two Prime Ministers, the American President and the world's media on a knife-edge yesterday.

Just as the peace agreement for Northern Ireland appeared to have been clinched, Jeffrey Donaldson, the 35-year old Ulster Unionist MP for Lagan Valley, cried foul.

Mr Donaldson told David Trimble, his party leader, that he could not accept the proposed agreement because he could not sit on an executive committee with Sinn Fein members without guaranteed IRA decommissioning. He said verbal guarantees offered by Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern late the previous night were insufficient. Without Mr Donaldson, Mr Trimble stood little chance of selling the agreement to his party. He is Mr Trimble's heir apparent and a Deputy Grand Master of the Orange Order. Four of the party's nine MPs were already in almost open rebellion.

It took President Clinton's personal intervention and written assurances from Mr Blair to retrieve the situation. Late in the afternoon Mr Donaldson sped away from Stormont. Unionist officials acknowledged he had continuing reservations, but insisted he was "on board".

Mr Trimble's fight to sell the agreement to his party starts this morning when he meets the UUP's 100-strong executive — and it is essentially a battle for the soul of Unionism. On the one hand, the agreement offers nationalists power-sharing, involves Unionists sitting at a "cabinet" table with Sinn Fein and gives Dublin a limited say in the North's affairs. On the other hand, Mr Trimble has secured Dublin's formal recognition of Northern Ireland's legitimacy and the principle of consent. It has agreed to end its constitutional claim to the North.

He has achieved a new assembly for the Province after 25 years of direct rule, and is almost certain to be its First Minister. And while the North-South bodies are hardly the toothless affairs Mr Trimble envisaged, he has beaten off nationalist demands for strong, independent institutions with executive powers.

Above all, the deal offers Northern Ireland a Unionist majority and a chance of stability it has not known in 30 years by meeting the more legitimate aspirations of the Roman Catholic minority. By including Sinn Fein, it promises an end to IRA terrorism.

The ghost of Brian Faulkner has hovered over all Unionist leaders for the past quarter-century. He was the last who dared deal with the enemy, and was quickly destroyed by hardline Unionists of the "not-an-inch" variety. Mr Trimble now stands a reasonable chance of laying that ghost, but it will be a momentous clash between the old guard and the new.

"I am pleased to announce that the two governments and the political parties in Northern Ireland have reached agreement."
Senator George Mitchell

"I am very happy for the people in Northern Ireland who I believe will now have the opportunity to build a peaceful future for themselves."
Mo Mowlam

"She he has been absolutely brilliant. She has this knack of keeping up when they are feeling down."
Tony Blair's spokesman on Mo Mowlam

"Isn't it far better we are spilling sweat than spilling blood?"
David Adams of the UDP

"I think it is absolutely historic. The people of Northern Ireland have to make up their own minds when they read and examine it."
David Ervine, Progressive Unionist Party

"It means those who seek to kill and maim will be sidelined."
David Andrews, Irish Foreign Minister

"He is a man of immense complexity. Yes. He has made a massive leap of the imagination and a huge political gamble."
An associate of David Trimble

"A pint of Guinness, or a large whiskey, or maybe one."
Seamus Mallon, SDLP deputy leader when asked how he proposed to celebrate

"I think this will be the end of mainstream violence ... their future (and grandchildren) will be a hell of a lot brighter than my life was."
Gusty Spence, former UVF murderer

"The settlement shows that the will of the people for peace and co-operation is stronger than the divide."
Jacques Santer

Deal that made Adams smile

By Martin Fletcher

SINN FEIN

GERRY ADAMS has got his deal. The big question now is whether he can sell it to the hard men of the IRA. The Sinn Fein president has not achieved the united Ireland for which so many of his republican comrades have died over the past 30 years and the deal involves Dublin abandoning its constitutional claim to the North.

He is bound to be denounced by the purists of the Continuity IRA and of the new group that has formed around the IRA's former quartermaster-general. Both persist in believing violence is the best route to Irish unity. More disgruntled hardliners will almost certainly defect to those two groups, but Mr Adams has probably won enough to keep the bulk of his movement on board.

He is the shrewdest of operators, and one senior government official confided yesterday that he and his fellow negotiators could not wipe the smiles off their faces — which was one of the reasons for the Unionists' last-minute jitters. That being the case, the other intriguing question is whether Sinn Fein and the IRA now join the ranks of those battling republican forces.

To sit on the new executive committee, Sinn Fein will have to renew its commitment to Mitchell-style principles of non-violence and will be participating in decisions on security matters.

The two splinter groups represent a significant threat. CIRA has exploded several large car bombs this year in an effort to wreck the talks. The quartermaster's group, linked to the 32-county sovereignty committee, has access to lethal IRA technology and was behind the massive car bomb intercepted on its way to Britain two weeks ago.

Mr Adams must win approval for the agreement from his party's annual conference in Dublin next Saturday, and will present it as a stepping stone towards the ultimate goal of Irish unity. He has won all-Ireland bodies considerably stronger than the merely consultative role envisaged by Unionists — but not with the independence and explicit executive powers he had wanted. He has won a share of real power in the running of Northern Ireland.

In an unprecedented move, the IRA is believed to have given Sinn Fein the go-ahead to sit in the new assembly, where it is assured of substantial representation. More importantly, the party would probably gain two places on the 12-strong executive committee provided there is prior IRA decommissioning.

Further down the road, it is entirely conceivable that Mr Adams could become Mr Trimble's deputy first minister, and that Sinn Fein ministers will take charge of all-Ireland bodies.

Sinn Fein has been steadily gaining on the ailing SDLP, and is on course to become Northern Ireland's largest nationalist party. Assuming that the IRA ceasefire continues, all its members now in prison should be released within two or three years.

Sinn Fein did not achieve disbandment of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, but there is to be an independent review of the force.

MILESTONES ALONG THE TROUBLED PATH TO PEACE

1916, Easter Sunday: Easter Rising in Dublin launches Irish rebellion.
1919: war of independence from Britain starts.
1920: Government of Ireland Act partitions Ireland.
1921: Anglo-Irish treaty provides for creation of Irish Free State and splits Sinn Fein.
1921: George V opens Northern Ireland Parliament.
1922: violence in Northern Ireland — 232 killed.
1922: civil war in Free State between pro and anti-treaty groups.
IRA is declared illegal in Northern Ireland.
1936: IRA declared illegal organisation in South.
1937: Eamon De Valera's constitution claims sovereignty over all the island.
1939: Eire remains neutral in Second World War.
1949: Eire leaves the Commonwealth and becomes a republic.
1956-1962: IRA wages its border campaign.
1965: Sean Lemass, Irish Prime Minister, makes first visit to Northern Ireland counterpart.

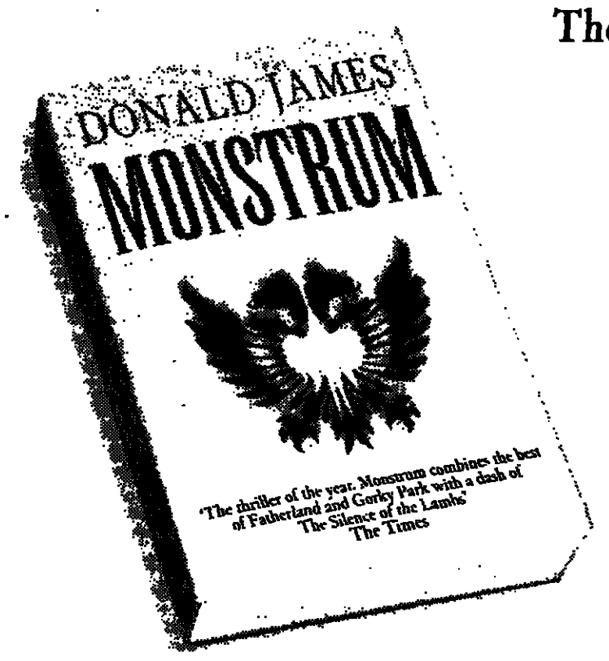


Fighters during the Easter Rising

1966: Nelson's Column in Dublin destroyed in bomb blast.
1968: first civil rights march held in Northern Ireland.
1968: present troubles begin as rioting erupts in Londonderry after police wade into civil rights demonstration.
1969: Harold Wilson sends British Army on to streets in Northern Ireland.
1971: first British soldier killed in present troubles.
1971: internment without trial introduced in Northern Ireland.
1972: Stormont Parliament abolished.
1973: Sunningdale agreement sets up a power-sharing executive.
1974: Ulster workers' strike brings down power-sharing executive.
1981: ten men die in IRA hunger strike.
1985: Anglo-Irish agreement gives Irish Republic involvement in Northern Ireland affairs for the first time.
1994: IRA declares a ceasefire, followed by loyalist ceasefire.
1994: first official meeting between Government and Sinn Fein.
1996: IRA ceasefire ends with Docklands bomb that kills two.
1997: Tony Blair visits Belfast and Government starts talks with Sinn Fein.
1997: IRA calls new ceasefire.
1998, Good Friday: peace process ends in agreement involving the British and Irish Governments and all the main parties in Northern Ireland except the Democratic Unionist Party.

CHILLING... GRIPPING... THRILLING...

'MONSTRUM combines the best of Fatherland and Gorky Park with a dash of The Silence of the Lambs'
The Times



THE THRILLER OF THE YEAR

OUT NOW IN ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS

ARROW
A division of Random House
www.randomhouse.co.uk

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

THE EASTER PEACE

'Wait and see' is the mantra on the streets



MAGNUS LINKLATER

The people of Belfast feel a measure of hope mixed with a large dose of caution

THE wind whistling down the Falls Road cut to the very marrow. Collars up, heads down, hands in pockets, early morning shoppers were intent on one thing only: getting out of the cold. And that, in a sense, was how Belfast reacted yesterday as news of the peace deal filtered through to them: collars up, heads down, hoping things would turn out fine, but none too confident that life was finally taking a real turn for the better.

"We'll believe it when we see it" ... "I still don't know what it means" ... "We've had our hopes raised so often" ... "Can you trust those people?" The comments kept on cropping up as the news bucked and shifted in the course of a long Good Friday. Compared to the euphoria that greeted the IRA ceasefire in August 1994, or the messianic visit of Bill Clinton in November 1995, the reaction was cautious, almost fearful. It was summed up for me by Violet Clarke, whose fruit shop in the Shankill Road became briefly famous when Mr Clinton bought a bag of oranges there and told Violet that peace was on the way.

"I watched the talks up to the midnight deadline, and no matter what politician was on, they weren't giving anything away," she said. "The ordinary people coming into the shop this morning haven't been talking much about it. In fact there's been no talk whatsoever. We've had these peace talks for a long long time and we know that whatever the politicians say, the IRA could just call off the ceasefire any time."

She wondered whether the deal could, in the long run, be delivered by Ulster's political leaders. Her final verdict — "Let's wait and see" — became something of a mantra.

It echoed almost exactly the thoughts of Father Kevin Browne, Rector of Clonard Monastery, as preparations began for the afternoon's service of the Stations of the Cross. Clonard has a grim history: it has seen violent riots destroy nearby buildings, and here in 1969, according to republican mythology, IRA gunmen occupied the building and held it against the Army and the RUC.



Father Browne

"We will be saying our prayers for future agreement and for peace"

That may explain in part the caution of Father Browne: "At the moment," he said, "people are waiting to see whether they feel happy enough about the detail to support the agreement." His sermon on Easter Sunday will reflect that hesitation. "I will be talking about forgiveness, and commitment to Jesus. I have no doubt that how we treat other people is connected with that. We will be saying our prayers for future agreement and for peace."

A few hundred yards from the monastery, the old peace wall by the Springfield Road still stands, a monument to a legacy of violence. Scarred by sectarian slogans, yesterday it was part of a playground for children. Almost inevitably their games were those of war not peace. "This is not the peace wall, it's the fighting wall," one said.

Despite the old ways, there was, running through almost every conversation, another theme that may in the end reflect a more practical and encouraging prospect for the future. Most people regarded it as almost inconceivable that the talks could not deliver something better. "There's no way back from this," said Peter McQuade, branch manager of a finance company. "The eyes of the world are on them, their reputations are on the line, and they know there will be a lot more trouble for them in failing than in pressing ahead."

It was a view repeated by Ciaran Quinn, who works at the Falls Community Council. He quoted Billy Hutchison, spokesman for the Progressive Unionist Party, who had said at one stage: "This is compromise or war." Mr Quinn, who believes that a deal can be made to stick, argued that what will count is not so much the finer points of detail, but whether the Roman Catholic population of Northern Ireland can be convinced that it will offer them "basic equality".

"It is still the case," Mr Quinn said, "that Catholics are two and a half times as likely to be unemployed. They still believe they are denied equality of treatment." He pointed to poorer housing, overcrowding, and the anger caused by millions of pounds spent on building the RUC's new barracks instead of improving living conditions for the Catholic community. Nevertheless, both he and his colleague, Gerry McConville, conceded that, while old resentments will never entirely disappear, the atmosphere in which the talks have been conducted has changed completely since 1974, when the last power-sharing assembly collapsed in violence and rancour.

"The debate will go on, but it hasn't fractured the community as much as it used to in the past," Mr McConville said. "This is a very politicised community, and it is judging its leaders on performance now rather than the emotions of the past."

Nothing illustrated this better than the extraordinary midnight press conference on Thursday night of the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. He and a crowd of demonstrators had "broken through" the gates of Stormont Castle. But, whereas once Mr Paisley could have commanded the support of thousands, this time there were fewer than 200 behind him. He no longer frightened anyone, and he knew it.



Violet Clarke

"Whatever they say, the IRA could just call off the ceasefire any time"

Even in Portadown, a centre of die-hard unionism, the response to Mr Paisley's last stand was largely indifference. "Everyone just said, 'Isn't it sad?'" said Mark Neill, a councillor for the area. "I think they just felt he's contributed so little." Mr Neill made no pretence that the deal was widely welcomed in hardline Unionist quarters, but nor did he say that it was rejected.

"Half of those who called in to David Trimble's office said, 'Hold on, it's a step too far,' and half said, 'Hold on, it's great.' But there's tremendous support for David, and since he has signed up to the deal, then I know it will be endorsed by the 800 or 900 Ulster Unionist delegates. That in turn means that the grassroots will support it too."

In Portadown, Mr Neill conceded that there was still fear, some confusion, and many doubts about what was going on. There was fear, he said, of seeing Sinn Fein in government, fear of IRA prisoners being released, and anger that victims of IRA violence will be forgotten. "But there are compensations. The Anglo-Irish Agreement has gone, and with it a large part of Unionist resentment."



PETER NICHOLLS

Children playing by the old peace wall yesterday, but their games were those of war. "This is not the peace wall, it's the fighting wall," one said

THERE'S NO BETTER VALUE

UP TO 40% OFF SELECTED PLANTS AT HOMEBASE.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER £1·89 EACH
Lobelia
Bush and Trailing varieties
Pack of 12 plants
Will be £2·99 from 6/5/98

Was £9·99 30% off Now £6·99
Dragon Tree (Dracaena Marginata) 17cm Pot

Was £5·99 Over 30% off Now £3·99
Ellwoodii Conifer 3 litre Pot
Also available Ellwood's Gold £3·99

Was £2·99 Over 30% off Now £1·99
Spring Foliage Heathers 1 litre Pot
Choice of varieties

Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum) 14cm Pot
Was £4·99 40% off Now £2·99

Was £9·99 20% off Now £7·99
Pieris (Large) 2 litre Pot
Choice of varieties

THERE'S NO BETTER QUALITY

Was £4·99 20% off Now £3·99
Bush Roses 3 litre Pot
Popular varieties
Also available Climbing Roses 4 litre Pot
Choice of varieties
Was £7·99 Over 10% off Now £6·99

We believe Homebase Own Brand products are excellent quality. If any Homebase Own Brand product does not live up to your expectations on quality tell us why and we will refund your purchase price.
• All indoor and outdoor plants delivered to Homebase stores are quality checked.
• Over 300 trained horticulturists available throughout the stores.

QUALITY HOMEBASE GUARANTEE

Was £6·99 Over 10% off Now £5·99
Broom (Cytisus) 2 or 3 litre Pot
Choice of varieties

Hebe 2 litre Pot
Choice of varieties
Was £6·99 Over 25% off Now £4·99 each

Was £3·49 Over 25% off Now £2·49 each
Saintpaulia in Hand-painted Terracotta Pot
Choice of colours

Hardy Ivy (Hedera) 11cm Pot
Was £1·99 30% off Now £1·39

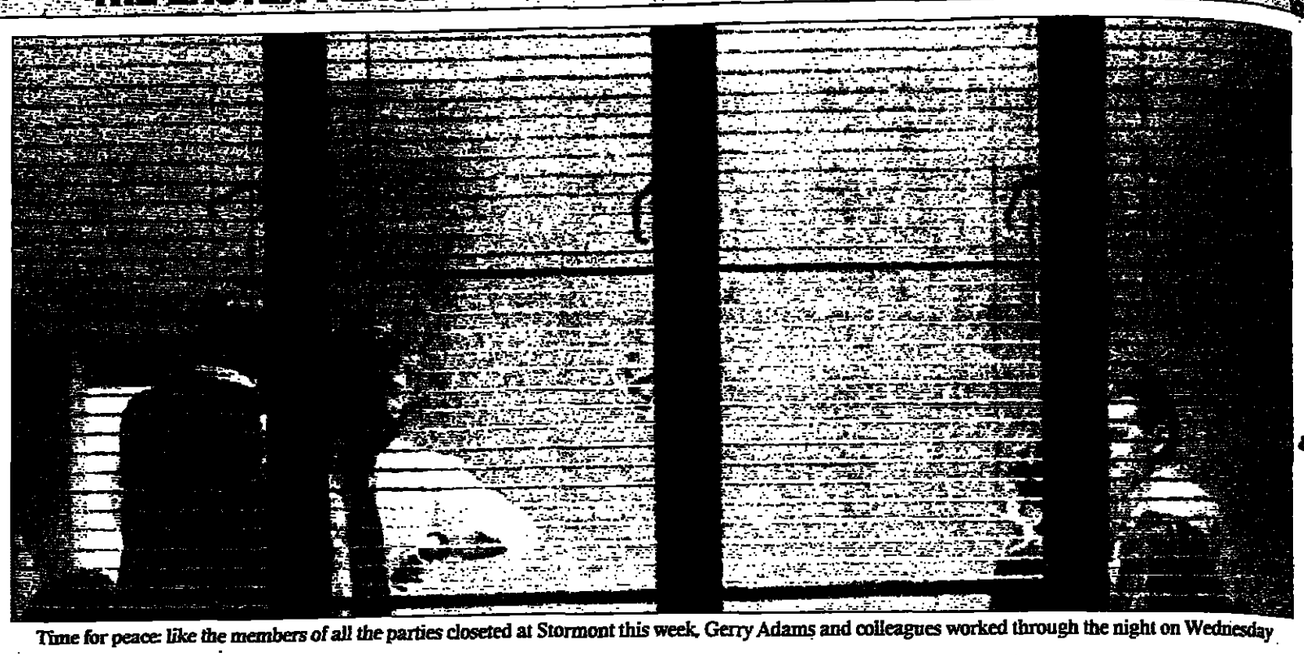
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk THURSDAY 9TH 8AM - 10PM • GOOD FRIDAY 8AM - 7PM • SATURDAY 11TH 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 12TH CLOSED • BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 13TH 8AM-7PM†

*If you can find any of these products or offers at a cheaper price, we'll refund the difference. This will not affect your statutory rights. Prices marked include discount. 1. Excluding Rosie and Pixie. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. †Stores in Scotland open Sunday 12th 9am-6pm. Monday 13th 8am-8pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 881 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

THE EASTER PEACE

New assembly is cornerstone of an historic deal



Time for peace: like the members of all the parties closeted at Stormont this week, Gerry Adams and colleagues worked through the night on Wednesday

NORTHERN Ireland will be governed by a new assembly which will establish a North South Council to form new links with the Irish Parliament in Dublin. The main points in yesterday's peace agreement covering the Government of Northern Ireland are:

ASSEMBLY:

☐ 108-member Assembly elected by PR in June

☐ NI's 18 Parliamentary constituencies to elect six members each.

☐ Assembly to elect First Minister and Deputy Minister. Likely to be Trimble and Hume.

☐ Ten ministers to run Government departments such as education and agriculture. Sinn Fein could have at least one minister.

☐ Guarantees to ensure that nationalists will be given an equal say in assembly. Decisions to be taken on basis of "parallel consent" or "weighted majority". These mechanisms effectively mean that any measure will have to attract the support of a majority of nationalists and Unionists before it can be passed.

☐ Assembly will be run by a chair and a deputy chair. Will also elect chairs and deputy chairs of a series of committees which will oversee NIO departments that currently run the Province.

THE MAIN POINTS

NORTH SOUTH COUNCIL

☐ Ministers from NI assembly and from Dublin Parliament to meet on new North South Ministerial Council.

☐ Will meet twice a year in plenary. NI to be represented by First Minister and Deputy, Irish Government represented by Taoiseach.

☐ Will also meet to discuss specific areas of co-operation. Relevant ministers will attend.

☐ Decisions can only be reached by agreement between both sides.

☐ Participation in new council to be "one of the essential responsibilities attaching to relevant posts in the two Administrations".

☐ Agendas to be settled by prior agreement.

☐ Council to "use best endeavours to reach agreement on the adoption of common policies in areas where there is mutual cross-border and all-island benefit".

☐ Council to co-operate on specific areas such as agriculture, education, transport, environment, waterways, social security, tourism, EU programmes, fisheries and health.

BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL

☐ New body to be established with members from the British and Irish Governments, NI Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and representatives of Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

☐ Council will meet at summit level twice a year and in "specific formats" on a regular basis.

☐ Two governments to provide secretariat for council.

☐ Body will operate on basis of consensus and will discuss "matters of mutual interest", such as transport links, agriculture, environmental, cultural and health issues.

BRITISH-IRISH CONFERENCE

☐ Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 to be replace by new body.

☐ Conference will oversee Assembly and North South Council.

☐ Prime Minsister and Taoiseach to meet "as required" at summit level.

☐ Ministers from NI will be invited to attend meetings.

☐ Conference will "have no power to override tghe democratic arrangements set up by this agreement".

AMENDMENT OF IRISH CONSTITUTION

☐ Articles 2 and 3 of constitution, which lay claim to NI, to be amended.

☐ New article 2 will say that everyone born on island of Ireland is entitled to be "part of the Irish nation".

☐ New Article 3 says: "It is the firm will of the Irish nation, in harmony and friendship, to unite all the people who share the territory of the island of Ireland...[but] recoginising that a united Ireland shall be brought about only by peaceful means with the consent of a majority of the people...in both jurisdictions."

SECURITY

☐ The British Government will make progress towards the objective of as an early return as possible to normal security arrangements in Northern Ireland.

☐ It will seek a reduction in the numbers and role of the armed forces deployed in Northern Ireland, the removal of security installations and emergency powers, and the inclusion of other measures appropriate with a peaceful society.

☐ The Secretary of State will consult regularly with the Irish government on progress and response to any continuing paramilitary activity.

DECOMMISSIONING

☐ All participants reaffirm their commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations and their intention to work with the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. They will work to achieve decommissioning of all paramililtary arms within two years.

☐ The Independent Commission will monitor, review, and verify progress on decommissioning of illegal arms, and report to both governments on a regular basis. Both governments will take the necessary steps to facilitate the decommissioning process by the end of June.

POLICING

☐ An Independent Commission will be established on the future of policing in Northern Ireland. It will consult widely and will report no later than summer 1999.

☐ A parallel wide-ranging review of criminal justice will conducted by the British government in consultation with the political parties. It will begin as sson as possible.

☐ Implementation of the recommendations from both reviews will be discussed with the political parties and the Irish goverment. The British government is ready in principle to devolve responsibility for policing and justice issues.

☐ The signatories believe that the agreement provides for the oppprtunity for a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland with a police service capable of attracting support from the whole community.

HUMAN RIGHTS

☐ ainst the background of the recent conflict the parties affirmed the right of free political thought, freedom of expression and religion, the right to pursue democratic political aspirations, to seek constitutional change by legitimate means, to choose a place of residence, equal opportunity regardless of class, creed, disability, gender or ethnicity, the right to freedom from sectarian harassment and for women's full equal political participation.

UK LEGISLATION

☐ Subject to public consultation the British government will as a priority create a statuory obligation on public authorities to carry out their functions with regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity. Public bodies would be required to draw up statutory schemes showing how they would implement the obligation. They would be subjected to policy appraisal.

NEW INSTITUTIONS

☐ A Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, with membership reflecting the community balance, will be established by Westminster legislation. It will be independent of government. The Irish government will create a commission with a mandate and remit equivalent to the one being set up in Northern Ireland.

RECONCILIATION AND VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

☐ A joint committee will be set up with representatives of the North and South human rights commissions. It will consider the possibility of a charter endorsing agreed measures for the protection of the fundamental rights of everyone living in the island of Ireland.

☐ The signatories will consider enhanced financial assistance for the work of reconciliation, including statutory funding, to meet the needs of victims and to provide for community based support programmes.

NEXT STEPS

April: peace document is sent to every home in Northern Ireland.

Mid-May: President Clinton visits Northern Ireland.

May 22: referendums on both sides of the border to get support for the deal, including changing the Irish Republic's constitution.

June: elections to 108-seat Northern Ireland Assembly.

July: Orange "marching season" in Northern Ireland.

July: Shadow Assembly executive negotiates with London and Dublin over creation of North/South body.

Autumn to 1999: Assembly comes into operation and powers devolved to it.

North/South body becomes operational.

Dixons

GET MORE OUT OF YOUR PC WITH DIGITAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL CAMERAS

The revolution has arrived ... cameras and camcorders have gone digital! With these ultra-compact digital cameras, because they store images digitally, there's no more film or developing, so you can view your photos instantly. You can edit and store them on your PC, look at them on your TV, put them into letters and documents – even fax or E-mail them!

HIGH RESOLUTION

The new generation of digital cameras deliver stunning picture quality with the incredible resolution of around a million pixels, giving amazing clarity on screen and in print.

CASIO QV700 DIGITAL CAMERA
• 640x480 pixels. • 2.5" LCD screen.
• Stores up to 58 images.
Was £499.99, £399.99.
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES
SAVE £150
MEGA DEAL £349.99

OLYMPUS C-1000L DIGITAL CAMERA WITH 3x SLR ZOOM
• 1024x768 pixels.
• 2Mb Smartmedia card (upgradeable).
• 45mm LCD screen.
Was £999.99, £899.99, £799.99.
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES
SAVE £300
Dixons Deal £699.99
EXCLUSIVE TO DSG RETAIL LTD

Kodak DC200 MEGA PIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA
• 1152x864 pixels.
• Stores up to 60 images.
• 4Mb removable memory card.
• 1.8" colour LCD display.
9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LARGER STORES
NEW
Dixons Deal £449.99

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

And with these palm-sized digital camcorders, you don't just enjoy professional image quality; you also get instant playback on your TV or, with selected models, on the built-in LCD screen. Not only that, you can edit and manipulate your films on your PC as well!

TEST DRIVE THEM TODAY

Ask for a full demonstration in-store

JVC GR-DVL9000 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 100x SUPER DIGITAL ZOOM
• 4" LCD screen.
• Amazing Image Pictures.
• Easy edit image transfer to PC.
• Image stabilisation for sharpest results every time.
• Digital effects during playback and easy edit.
• Direct PC connection.
• 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
Dixons Deal £1799.99

SONY DCR-TRV900 DIGITAL CAMCORDER WITH 400x DIGITAL ZOOM
SAVE TOTAL OF £400
£999.00

Panasonic NV-DS55 DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA WITH 100x DIGITAL ZOOM
• 3.8" colour LCD screen. • Picture stabilisation.
Was £599.99.
ALSO AVAILABLE, FIREWIRE CABLE FOR STILL IMAGE CAPTURE ON PC
Ask for details
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* Dixons Deal
SAVE £100
£499.99

FIRST FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY Dixons

ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk

*INTEREST FREE OPTION Account is interest free if repaid in full before (or within) the 6th, 9th or 12th monthly payment. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Cash price £799.99, 10% deposit of £80.00, loan amount £719.99. 0% INTEREST Eleven Pay 12 monthly payments of £54.78 and the balance of £662.63 before (or within) the 12th monthly payment. (TOTAL PAYABLE £1798.99 INTEREST 0%) OR 29.5% APR 48 monthly payments of £54.78. (TOTAL PAYABLE £2808.44. APR 29.5%)
WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS! Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not to use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office) effect H.R.R.P. These voucher prices valid only until Tuesday, 14th April 1998 unless otherwise stated.
ORDER HOTLINE 08000 68 28 68
Part of DSG Retail Ltd
All loans subject to status. Minimum deposit 30% on loans under £1000. Written credit quotations available on request from: Dept. FCHR, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland)

Blair looks ahead in spirit of fellowship

This is the full text of the speech made by Tony Blair from the steps of Stormont:

PM'S SPEECH

"You will have heard Senator Mitchell's announcement that an agreement has been reached. You almost don't dare to hope too much.

"I would like to offer my thanks to all those who have participated in this process; to the infinite patience and kindness of Senator Mitchell, the chairman: to the Taoiseach, the Irish Prime Minister, whom I have found to be a man of courage, tenacity and integrity: to my predecessor John Major, who had the foresight to help start all this; to President Clinton for his unswerving support and commitment to peace: and to all those political leaders who took the risk of being inside these talks, rather than on the outside, who in the interests of success for their people were prepared to take the risk of failure for themselves.

"I would like to pay my respects to all those from all communities, who have been victims of the terrible tragedy that has afflicted Northern Ireland over the years, those civilians murdered and maimed, those in the police and security services that have given their lives.

"We have all shed tears. We have all shared in the grief of bloodshed and senseless violence. I can still see the pain and scars. And I know, in that contemplation, why it is right for us to be here, in such urgent striving for peace.

"In these past few days, the irresistible force, the political will, has met the immovable object, the legacy of the past, and we have moved it.

"The idea that if one side wins something in Northern Ireland, the other loses, that's gone. The essence of what we have agreed is a choice: we are all winners or all losers. It is mutually assured benefit or mutually assured destruction.

"This is because the package is based on balanced principles, which for ages people have thought contradictory, but which are in fact absolutely compatible. We can all win. Put this agreement into practice, and we do all win.

"I have been clear throughout about the principles behind this agreement. And they have been met. Those who wish Northern Ireland to remain in the UK can have that wish fulfilled so long as a majority in Northern Ireland desire it.

"The principle of consent is absolute and was throughout the agreement. The breakthrough is that it is now accepted plainly by all, North and South.

"Those who believe in a united Ireland can make that case now by persuasion, not violence or threats. There is recognition and acceptance of the nationalist identity. There are plans for co-operation, including through implementation bodies on an all-island basis. There can be further developments of such bodies again should consent be there for them. There are provisions for fairness and equality, for recognition that all traditions in Northern Ireland are valid and deserve respect and dignity. There will be an assembly for the good governance of Northern Ireland. The British and Irish Governments have come together in a new and more mature relationship for the future, one that reflects better the common sense of the nations side by side with so much to share and exchange.

> "In doing what we have done today, we have carried out the people's will. The chance to live in peace"

"We are creating new dimensions to age-old ties of proximity and kinship. And we are seeking to replace the hatreds and fears of so many years, where people misunderstand each other before they even think or try, with a reawakening, however cautious, of the spirit of trust and fellowship.

"This can't work without such a spirit. Words matter. Details are vital. Drafting is crucial. All that I know well from the last three days. But I want to say this to the politicians and people of Northern Ireland with all the force I can muster. Even now, this will not work unless, in your will and in your mind, you make it work. Unless you extend the hand of friendship to those who once were foes. Unless, before you condemn, you at least try to see the other side. Unless you take it into your hearts that others can reach different conclusions in just as good faith as you reach yours.

"This is the choice humanity makes in every age: between the daring that crosses new frontiers allowing us to progress: or the timidity that shuts itself away in seclusion where we stagnate. Today courage has triumphed.

"I said when I arrived here on Wednesday night that I felt the hand of history upon us. Today the burden of history can at last start to be lifted from our shoulders.

"It will take more of the courage we have shown this far. But it need not mean more of the pain. In doing what we have done today, we have carried out the people's will. The chance to live in peace. The chance to raise their children out of the shadow of fear. That is all the people of Northern Ireland have ever asked for. They now have that chance. But today is the beginning, not the end. Today we have just a sense of the prize that is before us.

"The work to win that prize goes on. We cannot, must not, let it slip from our grasp."

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

Braveheart 2: the heroic failure that sank Scotland

Film firms are in talks over 17th-century epic, write Gillian Harris and Andrew Pierce

THE extraordinary life of a 17th-century Scottish adventurer and explorer who founded a disastrous settlement in Panama may be turned into a Hollywood blockbuster to rival the award-winning *Braveheart*.

A Labour MP who is a descendant of William Paterson, who will be honoured in Scotland in July on the 300th anniversary of the ill-fated mission, is leading talks with the film companies.

Paterson founded the Darien settlement 300 years ago on a mosquito-infested scrap of land on the northern coast of Panama after an epic four-month voyage. The pioneers had wrongly believed, on the basis of sightings by sailors and pirates, that Darien offered them a colony where entrepreneurs could establish trading links with the world and bring prestige and prosperity to their country.

It was the biggest economic disaster to befall Scotland. It caused the death of almost 2,000 settlers, who fell victim to "virulent mosquito fever" and cost £500,000 in investment which almost bankrupted the Scottish economy.

But Paterson, whose exploits are taught in Scottish schools, remains a popular folklore hero, despite the fact that historians argue that the venture crippled the country's economy to such an extent that it triggered the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament and led to the 1707 Act of Union with England.

Now Fraser Kemp, MP for Washington and Houghton, who voted in favour of bringing back a Scottish parliament, is planning to tell the world how it was lost in the first place. "It's a fascinating story of individual heroism and collective endeavour at a major historical turning-point. It has pathos and passion," he said.

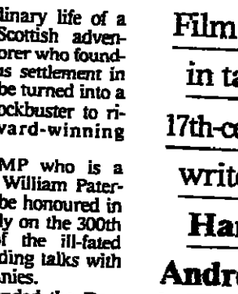
David Armitage, of Columbia University's history department in New York, said: "The Darien venture was the most ambitious colonial scheme attempted in the 17th century. It should be looked at in terms of the extraordinary imagination which went into it. The Scots were the first to realise the strategic importance of the area around Panama, which gave access to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans."

Even today, three centuries after Paterson, the densely forested terrain remains inhospitable and undeveloped. Explorers have flocked to cross the Darien Gap, as it is now known, which is the only land route connecting the Americas.

The land is littered with the evidence of their endeavours: caracases of Land Rovers and people who failed to complete the expedition scar the land. It has even been immortalised in verse by John Keats who, in his *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*, used it to symbolise the awe of discovery

Then felt I like some
watcher of the skies
When a new planet swims
into his ken
Or like stout Cortez when
with eagle eyes
He star'd at the Pacific —
and all his men
Look'd at each other with
a *wild surmise —*
Silent, upon a peak
in Darien

Paterson helped to set up the Company of Scotland in Edinburgh to promote foreign trade and enthused about Darien as a remote spot where Scots could settle. Thousands of people invested money in the expedition, which was scheduled to depart from the Port of Leith in July 1698. Thousands more volunteered to travel on board the five ships, including Highlanders driven from their homes by famine and soldiers discharged after the Glencoe Massacre. In his book, *The Darien Disaster*, the historian John Prebble wrote: "To the people then it was hope, it represented their fevered longing for freedom and prosperity and it symbolised their defiance of England."



> It was disaster. They never had a chance. It was the one event which led to the Act of Union

But Mr Prebble said last night: "They were plain daft to try. The journey was too long. The land was infested with mosquitos and ravaged by fever. It was disaster. They never had a chance. It, without doubt, was the one event which led to the signing of the Act of the Union."

In the end 1,200 people set sail watched by cheering crowds on the quayside, but it was a depleted group that arrived in Darien in November. Many were sick and others were quarrelling as power struggles arose among the elected councillors. They struggled ashore and renamed the land Caledonia, with its capital New Edinburgh.

The first task was to dig graves for the dead volunteers, which included Paterson's wife. The situation grew worse because of a lack of food. The native Indians took pity on the Scots, bringing them gifts of fruit and fish.

Seven months after arriving, 400 Scots were dead. The rest were emaciated and yellow with fever. They decided to go home.

But in Scotland the glory of Caledonia was untainted by reality. A second expedition, with 1,300 people on board, arrived at Darien in November 1699. Fire destroyed the ship that was carrying their entire supply of food.

They clung on until March 1700. The Articles of Capitulation to the Spanish were signed in the rain with a Scottish drummer beating a retreat. Only a handful survived the return journey.

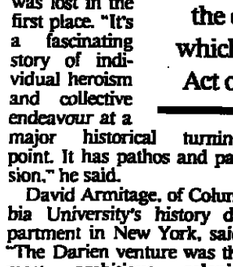
Mr Prebble added: "Spanish and English mariners knew Darien and would not touch it. They feared the fever. But Paterson was reckless and thought he knew better. Scotland paid a terrible price because of him."

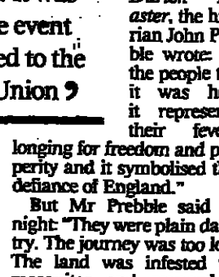
RICHARD POHLE



Historian and author John Prebble with a 1660s map of Panama: Scotland paid a terrible price for the ill-fated expedition, he says

FOUR IN THE FRAME FOR THE LEAD





FRASER KEMP has received enthusiastic help from Planet 24, Bob Geldof's television company, and is looking to the William Morris Agency in Hollywood to communicate the power and significance of the story to the big film studios. The story of William Paterson's folly is the natural successor to the box-office success *Braveheart*, which starred Mel Gibson as William Wallace, who raised the banner of Scottish independence by seeking to drive out the English. Paterson's adventure is said to have cost Scotland that independence. Sean Connery is the favourite to play Paterson. The names of Harrison Ford, who starred in *The Mosquito Coast*, and Robert De Niro, who was in *The Mission*, another failed jungle enterprise, have also been touted.





Bognor Birdman competition, August, Bognor Pier.

Be sensible, have £20

The Alliance Current Account gives you £20 for joining

We'll probably never know exactly why anyone would choose to dress up as a giant bird and jump off a pier. People who open an Alliance Current Account are much easier to understand. For a start they get £20 when they open and fund their account. Then there are all the other benefits of a more sensible way of banking:

- Free banking*
- 24 hour telephone banking
- Low authorised overdraft rate with no monthly fees
- Generous credit interest rates

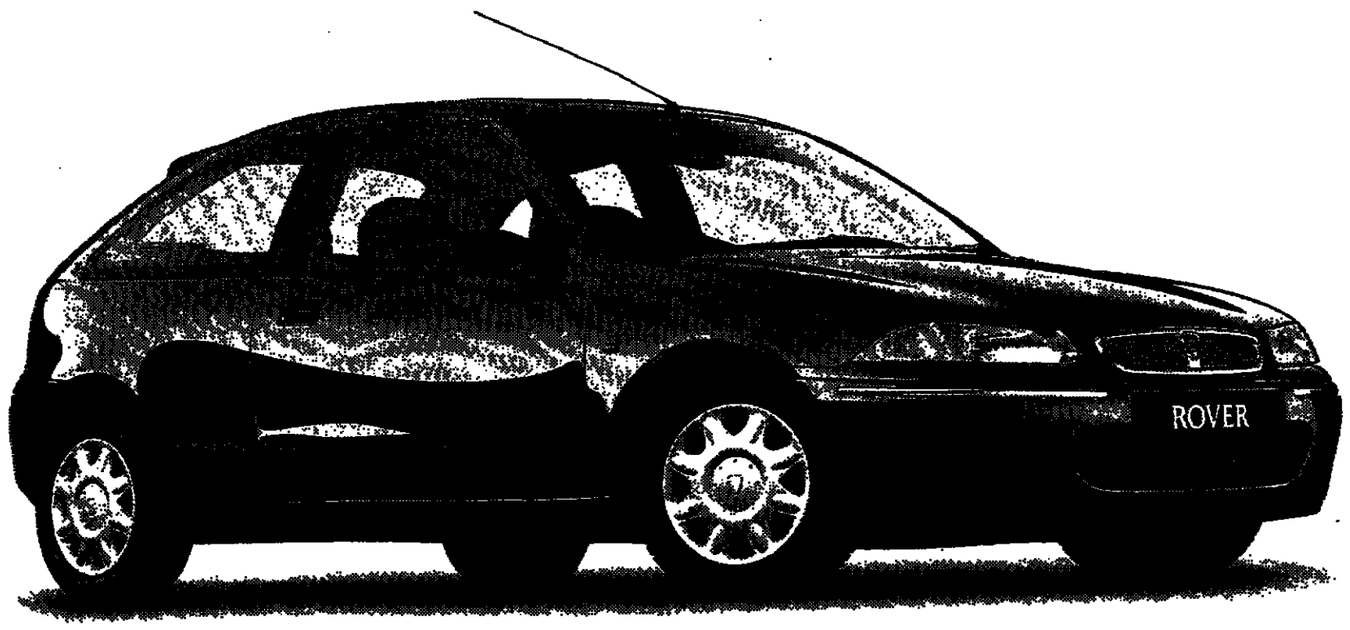
The 1.7 million people who can already use our telephone banking service know how much sense it makes. And with the chance to use over 300 Alliance & Leicester branches and nearly 20,000 post offices, no-one gives you more places to bank. So, if you're still with a bank that's driving you mad, why not fly the nest? Call us free to apply or find out more.

Sensible banking in a mad, mad world 0500 95 95 95

QUOTING REF N332

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

All applicants must be aged 18 years and over and agree to pay a minimum deposit of £200 into their account. Applications and overdrafts are subject to status. Written quotations are available on request. Credit interest is payable net of income tax, 3.0% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £5,000 or over. Interest rates are variable. To qualify for the £20 offer, you must fund your account within 2 months of the account opening date. *When in credit. All information correct at time of going to press. For security and training purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or it's subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ.



THE £9,700 ROVER 211i. A GREAT WAY TO GET A YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE.†

The Rover 200 range starts at just £9,700 with a year's free insurance.

An offer that's extremely good value on the road, and heaven forbid, rather useful should you come off it.

For more information call 0345 186 186 or visit www.rovercars.com.

ROVER

CAR SHOWN ROVER 211i 3 DOOR £9,700 ON THE ROAD. †SUBJECT TO INSURERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS. OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL 30.04.98.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا في الأصل

Cardinal Hume urges return of bedtime prayers

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MOTHERS should kneel and pray with their children when they put them to bed, according to Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster.

Evoking the image of Christopher Robin saying his prayers, Cardinal Hume said society was in danger of losing its spiritual direction because it had turned its back on family prayer.

"Prayer has dropped out of family life. Those of us who pray learnt our prayers as children from Mum. As our society has become more and more secular, the habit of prayer has fallen off."

He said the image of Christopher Robin kneeling by the bed, and the famous line, "Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares!" from A.A. Milne's poem *Vespers*, was one that once found a place in households throughout the land. But today, while there was a spiritual yearning illustrated in the response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, society had become so secularised that increasing numbers did not even know how to begin when it came to praying.



"God bless Mummy. I know that's right..."

Cardinal Hume was speaking as he launched his *Basil in Blunderland* video — modelled on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* — in which he plays himself in a game of spiritual hide-and-seek with two children.

"This has been a long process which began with the Enlightenment, a long process of religion slipping out of our collective consciousness," he said. "The standard prayer is the prayer our Lord taught us, the *Our Father*." But, he added, "People need to learn to distinguish between saying prayers and praying." It was possible to reel them off without really using them properly. "The best definition of prayer is the raising of the heart and mind up to God.

"If people pray, their consciousnesses become more sensitive. It is very difficult to be a praying person and then to go and be beastly to your neighbour."

Without a return to prayer, the millennium celebrations would be meaningless. "There will be lots of street parties, lots of celebration of the Dome. But if we are going to celebrate the year 2000 properly, we have got to go into the 21st century different people, changed people.

"The celebration of the year 2000, if it does not mean that minds and hearts are touched in some way by the Holy Spirit, if we are not open, then it is going to be an empty celebration."

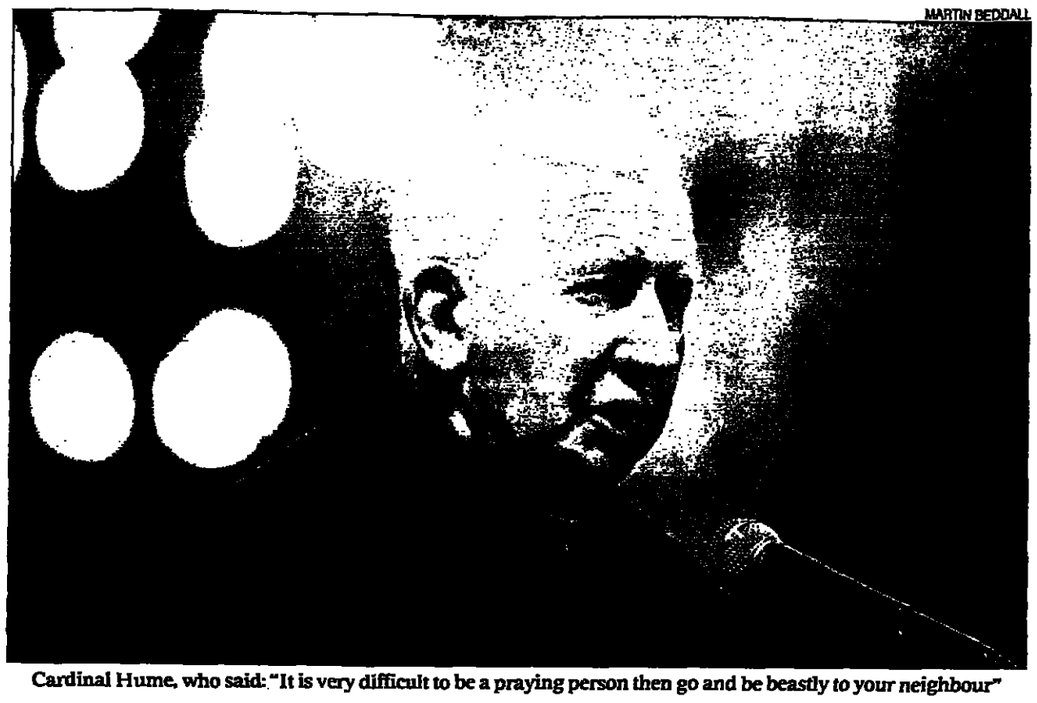
Cardinal Hume added: "There is in society a search for values. This is an opportunity that must not be missed."

He said it was significant that Westminster Cathedral had been more than three-quarters full for weekly spiritual talks delivered during Lent. He was also struck by how many people in Hyde Park joined in the Lord's Prayer during the funeral of the Princess.

He said: "There are a lot of people who want to know about prayer. The book of *Basil in Blunderland* has sold well. But a book does not reach that very considerable number of people who do not read but are quite happy to look at videos. We have to use these means now to preach."

The 52-minute video costs £12.99 from high street stockists.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Cardinal Hume, who said: "It is very difficult to be a praying person then go and be beastly to your neighbour"

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BENAZIR'S BOOTY



Britain was always Benazir Bhutto's safe haven. Will it now prove her undoing? Tomorrow, The Sunday Times unravels a secret, multi-million-pound network of British properties, offshore companies and bank accounts that may ruin her...

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

McAvoy asks for patience over reforms

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE leader of Britain's largest teaching union appealed to his members yesterday to be patient with the Government, as a series of calls for industrial action threatened ministers' plans to raise standards in schools.

As the National Union of Teachers' conference opened in Blackpool, Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, accused left-wing delegates of "political posturing" in their demands for strikes and other forms of industrial action, which are even more numerous than under the Conservative administration.

Motions submitted for the weekend conference call for action on pay, conditions of service, the sacking of incompetent teachers, class sizes, redundancies and the introduction of education action zones. Most are opposed by the union's moderate-controlled executive.

The first 11 months of Labour rule had produced a mixture of good and bad in education, Mr McAvoy said. "If delegates analyse the record honestly, they will be more encouraged about the prospects for the future at this conference than any of them will have been during the past 20 years," he said.

The battle between left-wing groups and the more moderate coalition within the NUT remains on a knife edge. Moderates won all the main offices in the latest elections, but the Left has made gains on the executive.

Extra funding for schools, increased nursery provision, the reduced curriculum for primary education and the Government's literacy and numeracy projects were all welcomed by the NUT, Mr McAvoy said. But doubts remained about education action zones, and the Government's policy of "naming and shaming" failing schools had been counterproductive. Such areas should be the subject of negotiation, he said.

However, the conference will hear a call to reject the Government's approach to raising school standards, to demand the sacking of Chris Woodhead as Chief Inspector of Schools and the disbandment of Ofsted and to work to rule in support of better conditions of service. The union is already committed to a boycott of tasks considered unnecessarily bureaucratic.

Help secure your family's future for 20p a day.



In an ideal world you will always be there for your family. But should the worst happen would they be able to cope without you?

For the monthly equivalent of 20p* a day you could help safeguard your family's financial future.

Legal & General's Family Protection Plan will ensure that the lump sum is paid should you die during the term you select. It's easy to budget for as you only pay a premium for a fixed period of time, and the amount you pay each month stays the same.

For a quotation call the number below. Alternatively, contact your financial adviser.

HOW LITTLE IT COULD COST YOU		
BENEFIT	TERM	PER DAY
£50,300	15 yrs	20p*
£90,000	15 yrs	31p†

Based on a male non-smoker aged 30 years. (Acceptance subject to individual details.)

*Equivalent to £6.09 a month †Equivalent to £9.35 a month

FREEPOST ENQUIRIES
when you're ready to talk
FREEPOST LONDON W1E 6YT

FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE ON LOW COST COVER CALL FREE ON:

0500 33 66 66

QUOTING THE REFERENCE NUMBER C20/DL02

Lines are open 8am to 8pm weekdays and 9am to 5pm weekends. For your protection, and to enable us to deal with any queries that may arise, calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored.

Legal & General

trust us to deliver

Further information on Legal & General products is available on our Website www.Landg.com

Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address below.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name

Legal & General Direct Limited Registered in England No.2702300. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP

SAVE £150 ON LAUNDRY
UP TO 72 IN STORE

WASHING MACHINES

Indesit WG624 900 spin/11lb wash load. Delicate wash. was £319.99 .. SAVE £80 £239.99

Wrigley AWM831 1000 spin/10lb wash load. Rinse and hold. was £358.99. In-store £369.99 SAVE £10 £249.99

Hotpoint WM52P 500/1000 spin/11lb wash load. Half load option. was £349.99. . . SAVE £50 £299.99

Zanussi FL1085 500/1000 spin/10lb wash load. 29 programmes. was £378.99. previously £499.99 SAVE £150 £349.99

Hotpoint WM83 1100 spin/12lb wash load. Aquarius Wash System. Plus, was £499.99 SAVE £110 £389.99

Zanussi FJV256 450-1200 variable spin. 30 programmes. was £569.99. In-store £579.99 . SAVE £20 £459.99

GRADE 'A' WASHING MACHINES

Hoover AS110 400-1100 variable spin/1lb wash. TRADE-IN. load 'A' grade wash. normally £499.99 SAVE £100 £399.99

Bosch WFF1401 600/1200 spin/1lb wash load. TRADE-IN. 'A' grade wash. normally £549.99 . SAVE £120 £429.99

Bosch WFF2001 400-1000 variable spin. 1 lb wash load. TRADE-IN. 'A' grade wash. normally £919.99 . SAVE £420 £499.99

WASHER DRYERS

Hoover A8754 500/1100 spin/10lb wash load. 5lb dry load. was £549.99. In-store £589.99 . SAVE £180 £369.99

Hotpoint WD61P 500/1100 spin speed/10lb wash load. 5lb dry load. was £569.99 . . . SAVE £110 £449.99

Zanussi WDU1284 Jetsystem. 450-1200 variable spin/10lb wash load. 5lb dry load. was £569.99. previously £669.99 SAVE £120 £549.99

TUMBLE DRYERS

Creda 37312 Compact. 6.6lb dry load. 2 drying temperatures. was £149.99 . . SAVE £40 £109.99

Creda 37857 Condenser, 13lb dry load/Reverse tumble action, normally £399.99. Trade-in £269.99 . SAVE £150 £249.99

Leisure 55 Cream Gas. 552mm width/Separate grill. Cast iron griddle. was £699.99 . SAVE £100 £599.99

Cannon GL 101839 Green Gas. 600mm width/Double oven. Toughened glass lid. was £899.99 . . . SAVE £200 £699.99

SAVE £150 ON DISHWASHERS
UP TO 20 IN STORE

Proline DW6008, 12 place settings. 6 programmes. was £299.99 . . . . SAVE £100 £199.99

CDW086 Slimline. 8 place settings/4 programmes. was £399.99. In-store £279.99 SAVE £30 £249.99

Zanussi DW607. 12 place settings/4 programmes. was £299.99. previously £429.99 SAVE £50 £279.99

Hotpoint DF61P, 12 place settings. 4 programmes. was £449.99 . . . . SAVE £100 £349.99

Bosch SGS3302, 12 place settings. 5 programmes. was £469.99. In-store £399.99 . SAVE £80 £389.99

SAVE £130 ON REFRIGERATION
UP TO 100 IN STORE
ALL CORDEX REFRIGERATION APPLIANCES ARE CFC FREE

FRIDGES

Daewoo FR142 Fridge with Ice Box. 4.9 cu.ft gross capacity. was £159.99. In-store £109.99 . SAVE £60 £99.99

Beko LNZ21 Larder Fridge. 5.0 cu.ft gross capacity. was £169.99 . . . . SAVE £30 £139.99

Hotpoint RSB2P Fridge with Ice Box. 5.8 cu.ft gross capacity. Low energy model. was £259.99. . . . SAVE £60 £199.99

Scandinova LF110 Larder Fridge. 11.4 cu.ft gross capacity. was £419.99 . . . . . SAVE £90 £329.99

FREEZERS

Beko ZN231 Upright Freezer. 4.0 cu.ft gross capacity. was £189.99. . . . SAVE £40 £149.99

Proline FS387 Upright Freezer. 8.6 cu.ft gross capacity. normally £329.99. . SAVE £80 £249.99

CHEST FREEZERS

Proline CF36C. 3.8 cu.ft gross capacity. was £169.99. In-store £109.99. . SAVE £60 £109.99

Scandinova CF135C. 10.2 cu.ft gross capacity. was £319.99. . . SAVE £80 £239.99

FRIDGE FREEZERS

Beko FF5126. 5.1/2.5 cu.ft gross capacity. Automatic fridge defrost. was £299.99. In-store £209.99. . SAVE £100 £199.99

Lec RD384. 4.0/4.3 cu.ft gross capacity. was £399.99. In-store £269.99 SAVE £130 £269.99

Kenco Kingfisher KCD1311 Frost-Free. 4.6/3.6 cu.ft gross capacity. was £499.99. In-store £399.99 SAVE £20 £349.99

Blomberg DFN511 Frost-Free. 6.1/4.8 cu.ft gross capacity. normally £549.99 . SAVE £50 £399.99

Scandinova FF5RNS Frost-Free. 6.7/4.6 cu.ft gross capacity. was £599.99 . . . SAVE £20 £479.99

Hotpoint RS6P Frost-Free. 17.2/4.8 cu.ft gross capacity. Extra deep door storage. was £729.99 . . . SAVE £30 £599.99

SAVE 50% ON VACUUM CLEANERS
UP TO 55 IN STORE
HALF PRICE EUROPEAN BRANDS WHEN YOU BUY ANY CLEANERS

DAEWOO RC105 Cylinder. 1100 watts power. Compact and colourful. was £39.99 SAVE OVER 50% £19.99

Blomberg BCR2 Storm Cylinder. 1400 watts power. On-board tools. was £159.99 SAVE OVER 50% £69.99

Electrolux 1406 Upright. 800 watts power/On-board tools. was £99.99. . . . SAVE £5 £84.99

SAVE £200 ON COOKING
UP TO 120 IN STORE

BUILT-IN COOKING

Hotpoint BD31 Brown Electric. Double Oven/Glass door. was £609.99 SAVE £80 £529.99

FREE STANDING COOKERS

Belling 69601 White Electric. 500mm width. Combined oven and grill. was £269.99 . SAVE £120 £149.99

Leisure 4300 Brown Gas. 546mm width/High level grill. TRADE-IN. Glass door. normally £379.99 SAVE £80 £299.99

Creda 40122 White Electric. 500mm width. Double oven. Solid hot plates. was £459.99. In-store £359.99. SAVE £50 £399.99

STOVES Panache 50091 White Gas. 500mm width. Separate grill. Brass effect finish. was £549.99. In-store £449.99. SAVE £50 £399.99

THE COMET PRICE

index

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

- Over 100 of Britain's best selling top brand products at the lowest prices guaranteed
- In the national newspapers every Saturday
- Updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 p425

INTEREST FREE OPTION ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200

Hitachi CV775DA Upright. 1300 watts power/On-board tools. was £149.99 . . SAVE £50 £99.99

Hoover U3135 Pumpovac Upright. 1300 watts power/7 stage filtration. was £134.99. previously £149.99. In-store £129.99 SAVE £30 £119.99

Vax 5130 3 in1, Vacuums & washes. 1300 watts power. was £179.99. . . . SAVE £30 £149.99

Electrolux 1720 Powersystem Upright. 1500 watts power. Cyclone cassette. In-store £189.99 . SAVE £20 £169.99

dyson DC03 Upright. Dual Cyclone technology/2 HEPA filters. Adaptive brush control NEW £279.99. Unique bagless system

SAVE 50% ON MICROWAVES
UP TO 40 IN STORE
HALF PRICE EUROPEAN BRANDS WHEN YOU BUY ANY MICROWAVE

Proline SM11, 750 watts IEC 0.6 cu.ft capacity. 5 power levels £69.99

Proline SM20 Touch Control, 750 watts IEC 0.6 cu.ft capacity. was £179.99 SAVE OVER 50% £79.99. In-store £89.99. OVER 50%

Proline GM66 with Grill, 700 watts IEC 0.6 cu.ft capacity/1050 watts grill. was £99.99. previously £169.99 SAVE £10 £89.99

Sharp R-210A(S)4 Blue. 800 watts IEC0.8 cu.ft capacity. was £119.99 SAVE £20 £99.99

Panasonic NN345S Touch Control. 800 watts IEC 0.6 cu.ft capacity £119.99

Panasonic NNK355 Touch Control with Grill, 800 watts IEC/0.8 cu.ft capacity/1300 watts grill. was £199.99. . . . . SAVE £20 £179.99

Sanyo EM0953S. Silver Touch Control Combination. 800 watts IEC 1.1 cu.ft capacity/1300 watts grill. was £299.99. In-store £249.99 SAVE £70 £229.99

SAVE 50% ON SMALL DOMESTIC APPLIANCES
UP TO 250 IN STORE
HALF PRICE EUROPEAN BRANDS WHEN YOU BUY 2 OR MORE PRODUCTS

Proline MT2 2 Slice Toaster. Variable browning. was £19.99. previously £19.99. . . . SAVE 50% £9.99

Kenwood BL350 Upright Blender and Coffee Mill, 300 watts power/1 litre blender. In-store £24.99 SAVE £5 £19.99

Tefal 6112 Maxi Classic Deep Fat Fryer, 1kg food capacity/Clean air system. In-store £29.99 . . . SAVE £2 £27.99

Philips HD3001, Cordless Jug Kettle, 1.5 litre capacity. Rapid boil disc element . . . £36.99

Rowenta P2 DE823. Professional Steam Spray Shot Iron. Improved glidability. Added steam penetration £49.99

Kenwood FP230. Food Processor. 400 watts power £49.99

morphy richards 45200. Deep Fat Fryer. Removable bowl. Cool touch body. £58.99

SAVE £450 ON MULTIMEDIA PCs PRINTERS & SCANNERS
WIDE RANGE IN STORE
FREE SOFTWARE BUNDLE WITH ALL MULTIMEDIA PCs*

Siemens Xpert 4100. Nixdorf Intel 166MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology. 33Mb SD RAM/3.2Gb hard disk drive. 3D graphics card with 2Mb RAM. 256Kb cache memory. was £699.99 SAVE £50 £649.99

IBM Aptiva E51. Intel 233MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology/32Mb SD RAM. 2Gb hard disk drive/3D graphics card with 4Mb RAM/56k fax/modem. was £1149.99 previously £1199.99 . . . . SAVE £200 £999.99

Siemens Xpert PII 233MT. Nixdorf Intel 233MHz Pentium® II processor/32Mb SD RAM/3.2Gb hard disk drive/3D graphics card with 4Mb RAM. 33.6 fax/modem, was £1399.99 previously £1599.99 In-store £1169.99 . . . . . SAVE £450 £949.99

COLOUR PRINTERS

Canon BJC4300 Colour Bubblejet. Up to 4.5 pages per minute. 720 x 360 dpi print quality. was £169.99. previously £179.99 In-store £159.99. SAVE £50 £129.99

Epson Stylus 600 Colour Inkjet. Up to 6 pages per minute/1440 x 720 dpi print quality/100 page sheet feeder. was £209.99 previously £229.99 . . . . . SAVE £30 £199.99

SCANNERS

UMAX ASTRA 610P A4 Flatbed. 30 bit resolution/Parallel port for easy connection. was £99.99 . . . SAVE £20 £79.99

SAVE £20 ON PHONES, FAXES & ANSWERING MACHINES
UP TO 80 IN STORE

Southwestern Bell FA3000. Telephone Answering Machine. Remote access/Last number redial, was £29.99 . . . . SAVE £7 £22.99

Binatone Discovery Cordless Telephone, Paging facility. Digital noise reduction. was £59.99 . . . SAVE £20 £39.99

Southwestern Bell FF690. Cordless Telephone with Digital Answering Machine. Intercom facility/Day and time stamp. 8 channels. was £84.99. previously £99.99 . . SAVE £20 £79.99

Philips Xalio 6300. Digital Cordless Telephone. Digital speech quality and security. Paging facility. was £149.999. . . . SAVE £20 £129.99

SF1107 Fax with Digital Answering Machine. Automatic telephone switch. was £199.99 . . . . . SAVE £10 £189.99

SAVE £400 ON CAMCORDERS
UP TO 25 IN STORE
FREE BAG, TRIPOD & CAMERA WITH ALL CAMCORDERS OVER £400

JVC GRAX270EK VHS-C. 18x zoom. Macro facility. In-store £399.99. SAVE £20 £379.99

JVC GRAX66TEK VHS-C. 28x digital zoom. Image stabilizer, was £499.99 previously £499.99 In-store £449.99 . SAVE £70 £429.99

Sharp VL-E69H Viewcam. 12x zoom/Fingerprint resistant LCD screen, was £499.99 In-store £459.99. . SAVE £50 £449.99

SONY TR620 Hi-8. 30x digital zoom/Hi-Fi stereo. was £569.99 previously £629.99, £699.99 SAVE £130 £569.99

SONY DCR-SC100E. Digital format/40x digital zoom. Fold-out 3" colour LCD screen. was £1399.99 In-store £1099.99 . . . SAVE £400

SAVE £10 ON PORTABLE HI-FI
UP TO 80 IN STORE

Venturer CD1893 CD Radio Cassette. Manual/battery operated. One-touch record. was £42.99. . . . . SAVE £3 £39.99

PERSONAL CD

Panasonic SL-S220. Anti-shock, Random play. Bass boost. In-store £79.99 . . SAVE £10

SAVE £150 ON HI-FI SYSTEMS
UP TO 90 IN STORE
FREE 50 CD STORAGE TOWER WITH ALL SYSTEMS OVER £1000.

CD MICRO HI-FI

Venturer CD671 CD Micro. 32 track programmable CD. was £79.99. . . . . SAVE £5 £74.99

Sharp XL-507E CD Micro. Remote control. Full logic cassette deck. In-store £129.99 . . SAVE £10

JVC UX-C30 CD Micro. 10 watts RMS power output. was £249.99. In-store £229.99 . SAVE £40

CD MINI HI-FI

Venturer CD2230. 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini. Twin cassette deck. In-store £99.99 . . SAVE £10

Sharp CDC410H. 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini. 10 watts RMS power output. was £179.99. In-store £159.99. SAVE £30

Venturer CDC560 Dolby Pro-Logic. 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini, 80 watts total RMS power output, was £199.99. previously £229.99. . . . SAVE £20 £179.99

JVC DD01T. 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini. 20 watts RMS power output. In-store £219.99 . SAVE £20

CD HI-FI WITH TURNTABLE

Sony S1000 3 Disc Multiplay CD Midi. 30 watts RMS powe output. was £259.99. In-store £249.99 . SAVE £30 £229.99

SONY X88 Dolby Pro-Logic 5 Disc Multiplay CD Midi. 180 watts total RMS power output. was £599.99. previously £699.99. In-store £579.99. SAVE £50 £549.99

SAVE £150 ON TELEVISIONS
UP TO 80 IN STORE
ALL COMET TVs ARE DIGITAL COMPATIBLE* *SUBJECT TO PURCHASE OF A DECODER, AVAILABLE WHEN DIGITAL TV LAUNCHES

Goodmans H28RS 14" Remote Control TV. 34cm visible screen. was £119.99 . . . SAVE £10 £109.99

JVC CVT14BK 14" Fastest TV. 34cm visible screen. Auto set-up, was £179.99 In-store £159.99 SAVE £20 £159.99

Sony KV14T1 14" Fastest TV. 34cm visible screen. was £209.99 . . . SAVE £10 £199.99

Goodmans 20INS. 20" NICAM Stereo TV. 49cm visible screen. In-store £219.99 SAVE £20 £199.99

JVC AV-21T3EK 21" NICAM Stereo TV. 51cm visible screen. was £329.99 previously £349.99, £369.99 . SAVE £70 £299.99

TV/VIDEO COMBIS

Goodmans TVC14VP. 14" TV/Video Combi, 34cm visible screen. Videoplus+™. was £279.99 . . . In-store £269.99. SAVE £30 £249.99

aiwa VX-T1480. 14" Teletext TV/Video Combi. 34cm visible screen/Videoplus+™. was £369.99 previously £429.99 SAVE £30 £299.99

LARGE SCREEN TVs

Goodmans 28SDPL. 28" Home Cinema TV. 65cm visible screen. was £599.99 previously £549.99 In-store £499.99. SAVE £100 £449.99

Panasonic TX29AD2DP. 29" Home Cinema TV. 68cm visible screen. In-store £729.99 SAVE £30 £699.99

Goodmans 33TS 33" NICAM Stereo TV. 80cm visible screen. was £749.99. In-store £699.99 SAVE £150 £599.99

SAVE £70 ON VIDEOS
UP TO 45 IN STORE

Goodmans VP2400. Videoplus+™/Long play. was £159.99. In-store £149.99 SAVE £30 £129.99

SHARP VQA25. Long play/Auto set-up. was £159.99. In-store £149.99 . SAVE £20 £139.99

Goodmans VN9000. NICAM Stereo/4 heads/Programme Delivery Control/2 SCART sockets. was £189.99. In-store £189.99 SAVE £20 £179.99

Mitsubishi HS740B. Videoplus+™/4 heads/Long play. Programme Delivery Control. was £229.99. In-store £219.99 SAVE £30 £199.99

Toshiba V757. NICAM Stereo. 4 heads/Long play/Programme Delivery Control/2 SCART sockets. was £299.99 previously £349.99. In-store £299.99 SAVE £70 £279.99

Panasonic NVHD620. NICAM Stereo/4 heads/Programme Delivery Control/2 SCART sockets, was £349.99 SAVE £50 £299.99

Toshiba V857. NICAM Stereo. 4 heads/Long shuttle. Satellite control/Programme Delivery Control. In-store £359.99. SAVE £20 £339.99

SAVE £150 ON TV/VIDEO PACKAGES
UP TO 30 IN STORE

SHARP 21" Fastest TV. 51cm visible screen, 51DT25H . £249.99
Videoplus+™ Video, VCA271 . £149.99
SAVE £20 PACKAGE . £379

Goodmans 28" NICAM Stereo TV & Stand. 65cm visible screen, 28SNS . £399.99
NICAM Stereo Video, VN8000 . £219.99
Package ex-store £529

SAVE £90 VOUCHER PACKAGE £499

SONY 25" NICAM Stereo TV. 58cm visible screen, KV25K1 £429.99
NICAM Stereo Video, SLVE 720 £299.99
SAVE £50 PACKAGE . £679

Toshiba 28" Home Cinema TV. 65cm visible screen, 2877DB . . . £729.99
NICAM Stereo Video, V757 . . . . £279.99
SAVE £40 PACKAGE . . £969

SHARP 28" NICAM Stereo TV. 68cm visible screen, 68CS03/0833 . £479.99
NICAM Stereo Video, VCM468 £249.99
Dolby Pro-Logic 3 Disc Multiplay CD Mini Hi-Fi, CDC470E . . . £299.99
Cabinet, SVW1 . . . . . £119.99
Package in-store £1099
SAVE £50 VOUCHER PACKAGE £999

SAVE £90 ON GAMES PACKS
UP TO 90 GAMES IN STORE

Nintendo64 Plus 2 Top Title Games: Goldeneye 007 & F1 Pole Position. Separate selling price £234.97 . SAVE £20 £194.97

PlayStation. Plus 4 Top Title Games: Adidas Power Soccer International, V-Rally, Cool, & G-Police. Separate selling price £266.95 . . SAVE £90 £199.95

SAVE 50% ON ACCESSORIES
UP TO 450 IN STORE

Sony CDC CD Lens Cleaner. 5 + 1 Free Pack Chrome Audio Tapes. 8 hours of recording time. was £4.49 previously £4.99 SAVE £1 £3.99

maxell E240 5 Pack High Grade Video Tapes. 20 hours of recording time. Separate selling price £22 . . . . SAVE 50% £10.99

Goodmans Pro CD1004. Closed Hi-Fi Headphones. was £17.99 . . . . . SAVE 50% £8.99

THE COMET PRICE CANNOT BE BEATEN

The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

EASY WAYS TO PAY

With a Comet Time card you can spread the cost of any purchase (subject to acceptance). With no deposit and an interest-free period, it really is the most convenient way to pay.

29.9% APR Variable – Buy Now Pay 12 months later. Cash price £749.99. Deposit 10% = £74.99. No further payments for up to 12 months after the purchase date. Balance £675 is payable in full after the 12 interest free months. 0% APR. Total amount payable = Cash price or 24 monthly payments of £37.72 commencing 12 months after purchase date. 29.9% APR Total amount payable = £1032.27 *Where Buy Now Pay Next Year is stated, monthly payments begin January 1999.

COMET

OPEN TODAY 9AM-6PM, EASTER SUNDAY CLOSED
(OPEN 11AM-5PM IN SCOTLAND) & EASTER MONDAY 10AM-6PM
For local store details, see Teletext Ch4 p425 or phone free on 0500 425 425

MONEY BACK WARRANTY

Our 5 Year Warranty is really special. Besides giving you peace of mind, if after 5 years you don't make a claim you can get your warranty money back in full. Ask in store for full details.

AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTS

Experts from leading independent magazines test and review our range. Products displayed with ★ denote award winning products and ☐ denote highly recommended products.

THE COMET PRICE: The items in South Wales do not stock catalogue items. All items subject to availability. Interest Free Option: 30% deposit then 11 equal monthly payments. 0% APR. For example. Cash price = £399.99. Deposit 10% = £39.99. Amount of instalments = 11 months at £32.45. Pay the balance £145.01. Total payable = Cash Price. 0% APR or for 24 months at £48.48 per month. Total amount payable = £597.75 29.9% APR Where Interest Free Option is not specified on products over £200, the period will be 6 months. Offer ends 28.04.98. Interest Free Option or Buy Now Pay Later promotions require you to produce 2 methods of identification on application. Credit is subject to status and cannot be guaranteed. Comet is a licensed credit broker for this service. Comet Group Plc, Grange Street, Hull. *In the case of Comet's voucher packs, simply take this page in store or pick up an in-store flyer. Voucher offers and close of business 17.04.98. **Voucher offers end 15.04.98. Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Note to music: Voucher offers Percent As Reggae Cafe All, MP Rose ask in store for full details. Model 1497 (SKU: 385104) ◊Packs are in store for full details. ΔWhile stocks last. Rosewood (SKU: 335553) or Walnut (SKU: 335561). ΔΔWhen you buy 2 or more Bryn Terfel, Bassani, Rose, coffee makers or fryers. Prices and information correct at time of going to press 09.04.98.

ROVER

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST IN LAUNDRY, DISHWASHERS AND REFRIGERATION

Currys

ONLY AT Currys

FREE IRON WHEN YOU BUY ANY HOTPOINT WASHING MACHINE OVER £350

FREE PAN SET WHEN YOU BUY ANY HOOVER OR ZANUSSI WASHING MACHINE OVER £350

FREE COOL BOX WHEN YOU BUY ANY HOTPOINT REFRIGERATION OVER £250

Ask in-store for details

EASTER EXTRA SAVINGS

WITH VOUCHER

SAVE UP TO £100 ON A RANGE OF LAUNDRY AND REFRIGERATION

PLUS INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200

HOTPOINT
1100 Spin 'Aquarius' Washing Machine

Available in Polar White, Linen, Mercury, Ice Blue, Lilac or Pistachio Green.
Model WM63.
Price Excluding Trade-in £429.99.
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

TRADE-IN PRICE £389.99 £40 TRADE-IN

WASHING MACHINES
SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £110

EXCLUSIVE FREE IRON
When you buy any Hotpoint Washing Machine over £350 (Model PHILIPS NOSTRAL H1242) Ask in-store for details



EASTER EXTRA
SERVIS 1200 Spin Washing Machine Model WM202. In-store Price £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £269.99

EASTER EXTRA
CANDY 1200 Spin Washing Machine Model ECO1201. Was £329.99. In-store Price £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £40 VOUCHER PRICE £289.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
HOOVER 1200 Spin Washing Machine Model WM52. Price Excluding Trade-in £329.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 TRADE-IN PRICE £299.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Washing Machine Model FL1082. Was £378.99. Was £349.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 CURRYS PRICE £329.99

EASTER EXTRA
HOOVER 1280 Spin Eco Wave Washing Machine Model A1125. In-store Price £439.99 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £90 VOUCHER PRICE £349.99

HOTPOINT 1200 Spin 'First Edition' Washing Machine Model WM53P. Price Excluding Trade-in £379.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 TRADE-IN PRICE £349.99

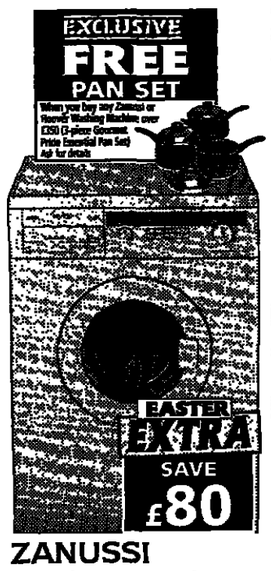
LOWEST EVER PRICE
ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Washing Machine Model FL1085. Was £449.99. Was £379.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £70 CURRYS PRICE £349.99

BOSCH 1000 Spin Washing Machine 11 programmes. Variable spin speed. Model WFB2004. CURRYS PRICE £369.99

HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius' Washing Machine Model WM62. Price Excluding Trade-in £409.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* FREE FROM Ask for details £40 TRADE-IN PRICE £369.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
ZANUSSI 1000 Spin Washing Machine Model FJ1296. Was £529.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* VOUCHER PRICE £449.99

EXCLUSIVE FREE PAN SET
When you buy any Zanussi or Hoover Washing Machine over £350 (3-piece Gourmet Price Essential Pan Set) Ask for details



EASTER EXTRA SAVE £80

ZANUSSI
1200 Spin 'Jetsystem RSi' Washing Machine

- Variable spin. ■ 30 programme combinations. ■ Saves water, energy and detergent. ■ Rinse sensor. ■ Economy wash. ■ Quick wash.

Model FJ1296.
Was £529.99.
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
VOUCHER PRICE £449.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
CANDY 1000 Spin Washing Machine

- 15 programmes. ■ Variable thermostat. ■ Rinse hold. ■ Water levelling system. ■ Quick wash.

Model ECO001.
Was £359.99. Was £279.99.
LOWEST EVER PRICE CURRYS PRICE £249.99

SAVE £110

FRIDGE FREEZERS
SAVE UP TO £70

EASTER EXTRA
NOVA SCOTIA 6.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer 3.6 cu.ft. fridge. Model F193. In-store Price £219.99. SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £199.99

HOTPOINT 8.2 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 6.0 cu.ft. fridge. ■ Adjustable shelves.

Model RF03P. Was £269.99. Was £249.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 CURRYS PRICE £239.99

LEC 8.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer
- 4.0 cu.ft. fridge. ■ 2.7 cu.ft. freezer.

Model N176. Was £299.99. £50 CURRYS PRICE £249.99

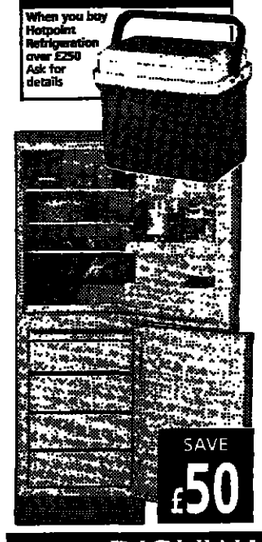
EASTER EXTRA
LEC 8.3 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model N216. Was £299.99. In-store Price £279.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 VOUCHER PRICE £269.99

BEKO 11.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model CG870. Was £369.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £70 CURRYS PRICE £299.99

HOOVER 7.6 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model RCM22. Price Excluding Trade-in £329.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 TRADE-IN PRICE £299.99

EASTER EXTRA
ELECTROLUX 9.3 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer Model ER7059B. Was £479.99. In-store Price £359.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £130 VOUCHER PRICE £349.99

EXCLUSIVE FREE COOL BOX
When you buy Hotpoint Refrigeration over £250 Ask for details



SAVE £50

CANDY
9.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer

- 6.7 cu.ft. fridge. ■ Adjustable thermostat.

Model CM28/10S. Was £299.99. In-store Price £259.99.
VOUCHER PRICE £249.99



EASTER EXTRA SAVE A TOTAL OF £50

ZANUSSI 8.1 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer ■ Auto defrost in fridge. ■ Salad crispers. Model ZF1651/27R. Was £379.99. 9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 CURRYS PRICE £349.99

BOSCH 9.5 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer ■ Auto defrost in fridge. ■ Adjustable safety glass shelves. Model KGV2604. CURRYS PRICE £369.99

HOTPOINT 12.0 cu.ft. Mistral Plus Frost-Free Fridge Freezer
- Also available in Charcoal, Flame Red or Burgundy. ■ 7.2 cu.ft. deep door fridge – holds 6-packs.

Model 8596 TASMIN GREEN. Was £649.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* CURRYS PRICE £599.99

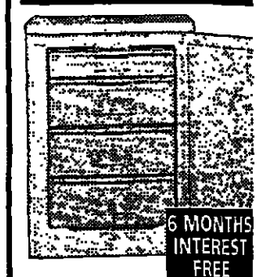
HOTPOINT 10.2 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model RF63P. Price Excluding Trade-in £439.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* FREE COOL BOX Ask for details £40 TRADE-IN PRICE £399.99

SERVIS 12.0 cu.ft. Silver Fridge Freezer Glass shelves. Model M7864S. Price Excluding Trade-in £439.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £40 TRADE-IN PRICE £399.99

ZANUSSI 8.2 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer ■ Storage guide. ■ Reversible doors. Model ZFK47/52R. Was £479.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £40 CURRYS PRICE £439.99

BOSCH 11.1 cu.ft. Frost-Free Fridge Freezer ■ Glass shelves. ■ Auto-defrost in fridge. Model KGU3102. CURRYS PRICE £599.99

FREEZERS
SAVE UP TO £100



6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

BOSCH
3.4 cu.ft. Upright Freezer

- Super fast freezing. ■ 4-star rating.

Model GSL 1202. CURRYS PRICE £329.99

EASTER EXTRA
NOVA SCOTIA EXCLUSIVE 3.8 cu.ft. Chest Freezer Compact size. Model CF380. In-store Price £109.99. SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £99.99

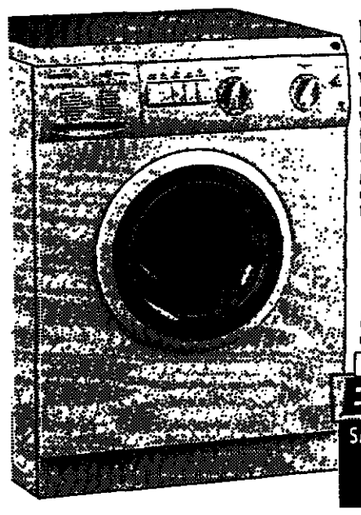
LEC 3.7 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Model U105. Was £249.99. SAVE £80 CURRYS PRICE £169.99

FRIGIDAIRE 14.5 cu.ft. Chest Freezer Model FC1407. Was £389.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £289.99

HOTPOINT 4.2 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Fast freeze section. Model RZ63 POLAR WHITE. Price Excluding Trade-in £269.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £20 TRADE-IN PRICE £249.99

ZANUSSI 3.7 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Model ZVF45R. Was £269.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £249.99

WASHER DRYERS
SAVE UP TO £100



HOOVER
1100 Spin Washer Dryer

Model A8754/WS115. Was £439.99. In-store Price £379.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* LOWEST EVER PRICE
VOUCHER PRICE £369.99

EASTER EXTRA SAVE A TOTAL OF £70

EASTER EXTRA
ARISTON 1000 Spin Washer Dryer Model AB1030C. Was £399.99. In-store Price £359.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £349.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
ZANUSSI 1080 Spin Washer Dryer Model WDT1085. Was £499.99. Was £459.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £60 CURRYS PRICE £439.99

HOTPOINT 1100 Spin 'Aquarius' Washer Dryer Model WD61. Price Excluding Trade-in £489.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £40 TRADE-IN PRICE £449.99

EASTER EXTRA
HOOVER 1400 Spin 'New Wave' Washer Dryer Model WN146. In-store Price £549.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £529.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
ZANUSSI 1200 Spin Washer Dryer Model WD1129d. Was £649.99. Was £599.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £100 CURRYS PRICE £549.99

BOSCH 1000 Spin Washer Dryer ■ 12 programmes. ■ Self-adjusting water level. Model WVF2000. CURRYS PRICE £599.99

TUMBLE DRYERS
SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £50

EASTER EXTRA
WHITE KNIGHT 11lb Reverse Action Tumble Dryer Model 433. In-store Price £139.99. SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £129.99

EASTER EXTRA
CREDA 11lb Tumble Dryer ■ Energy save drying system. ■ 2 heat settings. Model 37750. Was 159.99. In-store Price £149.99. SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £139.99

WHITE KNIGHT 11lb Tumble Dryer ■ 2 heat settings. ■ 120 minute timer. Model 412. SUPERB VALUE CURRYS PRICE £139.99

EASTER EXTRA
TRICITY BENDIX 11lb Tumble Dryer Model TM550. In-store Price £199.99. SAVE £40 VOUCHER PRICE £159.99

EASTER EXTRA
HOOVER 11lb Tumble Dryer Reverse tumble action. Model SV23. Was £239.99. In-store Price £199.99. SAVE £50 VOUCHER PRICE £189.99

DISHWASHERS
SAVE UP TO £50



TRICITY BENDIX
Full Size Dishwasher

- 4 programmes. ■ Adjustable upper basket.

Model DH101. In-store Price £299.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

EASTER EXTRA SAVE £50
CURRYS PRICE £249.99

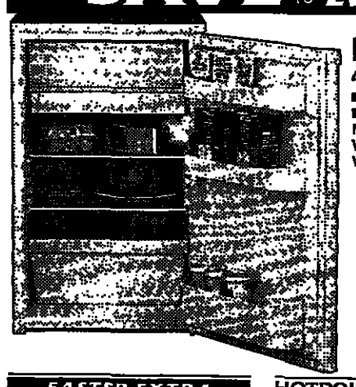
EASTER EXTRA
EUROTECH Full Size Dishwasher Model DW22. In-store Price £219.99. SAVE £20 VOUCHER PRICE £199.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE
ZANUSSI Full Size Dishwasher Model DW907. Price Excluding Trade-in £309.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE £30 CURRYS PRICE £279.99

HOTPOINT Full Size 'Aquarius' Dishwasher Model DF61. Price Excluding Trade-in £379.99. 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 TRADE-IN PRICE £349.99

BOSCH Full Size Dishwasher ■ 5 programmes. ■ 12 place settings. Model SGS5002. CURRYS PRICE £369.99

FRIDGES
SAVE UP TO £30



HOTPOINT
4.9 cu.ft. Fridge

- Adjustable shelves. ■ Shaped salad crisper.

Model RS03P. Was £169.99. Was £159.99.
SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £149.99

EASTER EXTRA
INDESIT 4.8 cu.ft. Fridge Salad crisper. Model RG1135. In-store Price £109.99. SAVE £10 VOUCHER PRICE £99.99

EASTER EXTRA
FRIGIDAIRE 5.4 cu.ft. Larder Fridge Model R1586H. Was £169.99. In-store Price £149.99. SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £139.99

HOTPOINT 4.9 cu.ft. Larder Fridge ■ Adjustable shelves. ■ Shaped Salad crisper. Model RL03P. Was £179.99. Was £169.99. SAVE £20 CURRYS PRICE £159.99

EASTER EXTRA
HOOVER 7.6 cu.ft. Larder Fridge Model R216B. In-store Price £249.99. SAVE £30 VOUCHER PRICE £219.99

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

Only Currys bring you all this...

- MASTERCARE Coverplan: PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME. Up to 5 years expert service support when you buy a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement. *PLUS 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION WHEN PURCHASED WITH ANY PRODUCT OVER £200. Ask in-store for details.
- DELIVERY & INSTALLATION 7 DAYS A WEEK. On a wide range of home appliances when you purchase before 4pm. 48 hour delivery in parts of Northern Ireland and more remote parts of Scotland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery, or take it home now. Ask in-store for full details.
- GAS / ELECTRIC: COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION. On all free-standing gas and electric cookers by CORGI registered engineers (excludes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores).
- EXCLUSIVE MODELS & OFFERS: *For exceptional value, exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.
- AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOPS AND PC RAM UPGRADES. Repairs 7 days a week (same day wherever possible).
- IN HOME: SAME DAY SERVICING. For most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.
- INSTANT CREDIT. With Currys Premier Advantage Account you can take advantage of any credit offer in-store. Ask for details.
- CURRYS DIRECT. For direct, doorstep delivery, Freephone 0500 304304 or fax 01442 888145 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun). Delivery charges from £3.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

All Superstores offer easy parking and late night shopping.
Open Easter Monday. Ring 0990 500049 for details of your nearest store.
Written quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG.
Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

HOW IT WORKS Account is interest free if repaid in full before (or with) 6th, 9th, 10th or 12th monthly repayment according to the period stated with the product. See our 'How it Works' showcard in-store for details. Example based on Cash Price of £499.99.

EITHER 10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION: 20% deposit of £99.99. 12 monthly payments of £13.53. Balance of £237.64 before (or with) the 12th monthly repayment. Total amount payable £499.99. INTEREST 0%.

OR SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS: 20% deposit of £99.99. 48 monthly repayments of £13.53. Total amount payable £749.43. APR 29.5%

For loan values £1000 and over, minimum deposit is 10%. Subject to status when you open a Currys Premier Advantage Account. Written credit quotations available on request from: Dept FOMK, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in N. Ireland.)

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

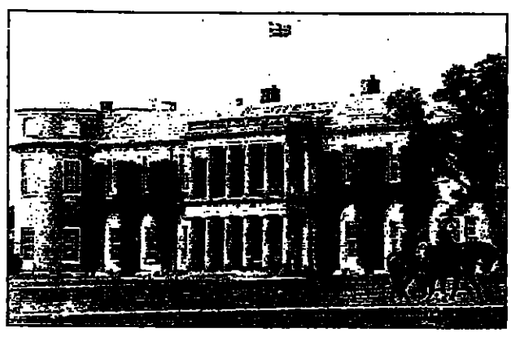
Look out for the special voucher savings on selected products throughout this advertisement. Simply take this advert to any Currys store to claim your discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some voucher offers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office offer). HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday, 15th April 1998 unless otherwise stated.

هكذا من الأصل

نسخة من الأصل

Goodwood puts accent on chic

By Marcus Binney



RESTORED Regency interiors rivalling those at Windsor Castle go on show this weekend at Goodwood House in Sussex. The work began when the 10th Duke of Richmond handed over the running of the 12,000-acre estate to his son, the Earl of March and Kinrara, who gave up a career as an advertising photographer to devote himself to it.

Lord March, an indefatigable worker, learnt earlier this week that the Sèvres porcelain cabinets could not be ready in time for the preview. "It just can't be done," he was told. "It can," Lord March replied, and stayed up all night to finish the room himself.

From Regency times, the lifeblood of Goodwood has been not hunting, shooting and fishing, but racing and Parisian chic. It stems from the fact that the 1st Duke was the son of Charles II and his Breton mistress, Louise de Keroualle. "The dukes spoke perfect French, so, in matters of fashion, they were a step ahead of everyone," Rosemary Baird, the curator, said.

While Ambassador to France, the 3rd Duke bought part of a set of Gobelins tapestries made for Louis XV. His tapestry drawing room has been the scene of more Privy Council meetings than any other private house.

Nearly 200 Old Masters in the public rooms have been rehung under the guidance of Alec Cobbe, including masterpieces by Stubbs and Canaletto and magnificent family portraits by Reynolds, Romney, Ramsay, Lely, Lawrence and Kneller.

The great revelation has been the rediscovery of the original yellow scagliola marbling of the Egyptian dining room beneath ten coats of paint. Designed by the architect James Wyatt in 1802, this was one of the first Egyptian rooms in England, but had been painted over in 1906. Missing Egyptian details have been taken from illustrations made by the artists who accompanied Napoleon on his Egyptian campaign in 1798 which the 3rd Duke had been the first to acquire and use. Now it is lit by flaming torches which are actually pieces of silk lit by coloured filters and kept fluttering by fans.



The ballroom at Goodwood is now rehung, Grand Tour-style, with pictures in double rows after a sketch by the 3rd Duke. Pride of place is given to a magnificent Van Dyck of Charles I and his family, which Oliver Cromwell had sold and the Duke brought back from Paris during the French Revolution. Smuggled out in a barge, the ornate frame still bears the marks of rough handling.

The Supper Room is hung with Scottish scenes recalling that the 5th Duke inherited the Gordon lands (said to comprise one sixth of Scotland), prompting Queen Victoria to recreate the dukedom of Gordon for the 6th Duke.

Having launched the popular Goodwood Festival of Speed, Lord March plans this September to reopen Goodwood's motor-racing circuit, closed in 1966 for safety reasons. Newly improved, it will reopen 50 years to the day after his grandfather inaugurated it in 1948.

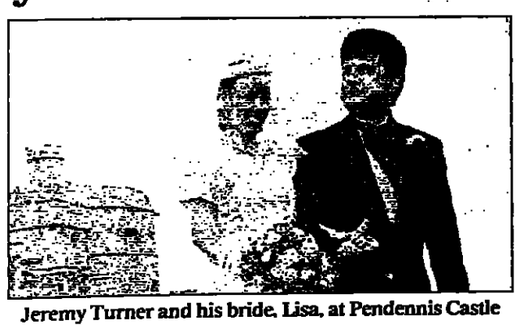
☐ *Goodwood House will be open tomorrow and Monday. Information on 01243 755000*

GILL ALLEN



Lord March in the ballroom which has been rehung in Grand Tour style. The dining room at Goodwood, left, is "lit" by lamps with simulated flames

Marriage? Fine, but your castle or mine?



Jeremy Turner and his bride, Lisa, at Pendennis Castle

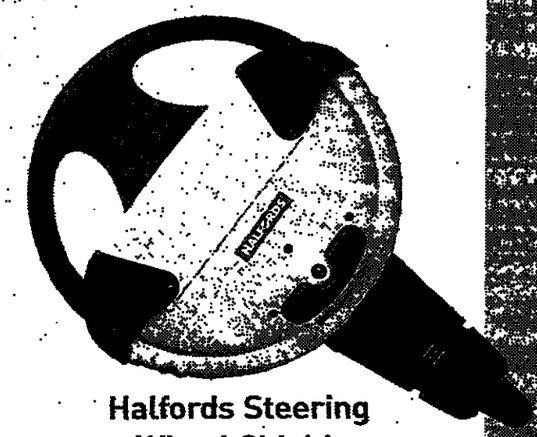
TWO castles ended centuries of friendly rivalry yesterday when their keepers married (Tim Jones writes). The bridegroom was Jeremy Turner, 47, head custodian at Pendennis Castle, on the western bank of the River Fal at Falmouth, Cornwall. Lisa Cooper, his bride, is deputy head custodian at St Mawes Castle across the river.

The couple, who met three years ago, had a civil ceremony at Pendennis Castle, walking under an arch of swords held by a guard of honour dressed in Tudor and Stuart costumes. The castles, now owned by English Heritage, were built in 1543 to guard against the French. Pendennis was strengthened under Elizabeth I and withstood a five-month siege in the Civil War, becoming the penultimate royalist garrison to surrender on the mainland.

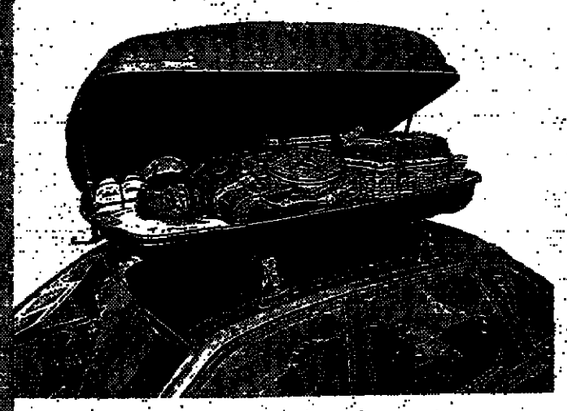
Going on a long journey?
Take a short trip to Halfords.



Erde 121 Trailer.
£269.99 £229.99 Save £40
Erde 101 Trailer.
£239.99 £189.99 Save £30



Halfords Steering Wheel Shield.
£69.99 £49.99
Save £20



Halfords 450l Roof Box.
£149.99 £129.99 Save £20



Halfords High Mount Cycle Carrier. Carries up to 3 cycles.
£69.99 £59.99 Save £10

HALFORDS

CALL 0345 626 625 FOR YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE. SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM-8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-6PM WEEKENDS. CHECK HIGH STREET STORE TIMES LOCALLY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. *FROM 3-13 APRIL INCLUSIVE. PRODUCTS SHOWN NOT NECESSARILY AS QUOTED.

Breathing Space.
(Don't take it for granted)



We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For over 60 years, The Ramblers' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.

Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in The Ramblers.

Join us.

A modest subscription brings you – FREE – the essential Yearbook, full of outdoor information (over 300 pages, over 3000 places to stay, £4.99 in bookshops); the quarterly magazine, Rambling Today; membership of one of our 400 local groups. Many outdoor equipment shops offer discounts.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode Date of birth
Tick box for membership type required
☐ Ordinary £17 ☐ Reduced* £8.50
☐ Family/joint £21 ☐ Joint reduced* £10.50
(for two adults at same address)
*Under 18/students/retired/disabled/unwaged
Donation £_____ I enclose £_____
☐ We occasionally exchange names (for use once only) with other organisations which may interest you. Tick if you would prefer to be excluded.

The Ramblers' Working for walkers

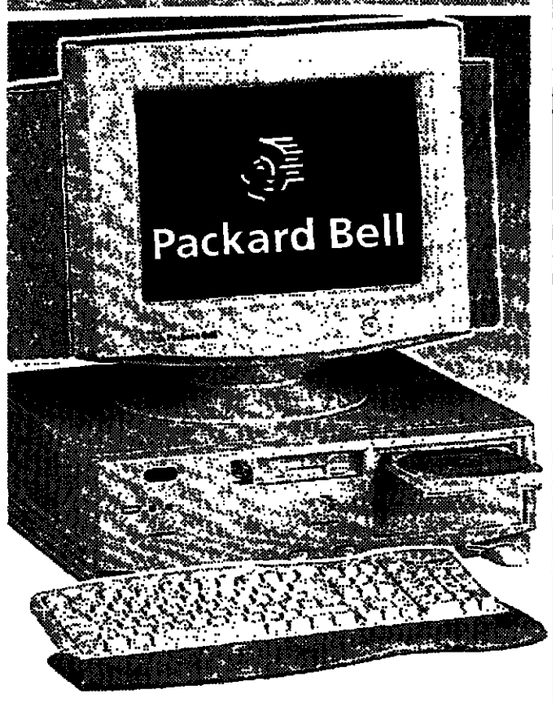
1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX. Tel: 0171 339 8500 TIMES1

Registered Charity No. 306089

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

200MHz PC ONLY £799

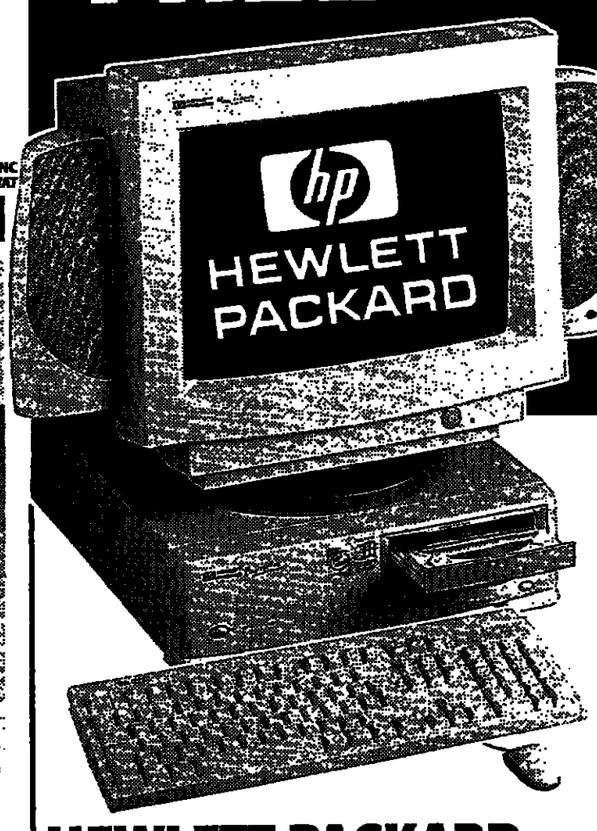


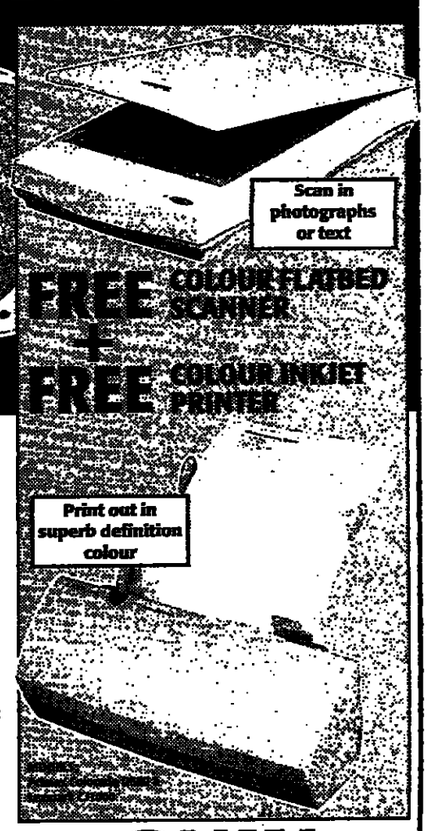
PACKARD BELL
200MHz Intel Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb EDO RAM, 2.1Gb Hard Disk. 256k Cache. 20 x Multimedia with speakers. 2Mb PCI Graphics. 14" SVGA Monitor.
FREE OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE.†
MODEL: 9030.

ONLY £799 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.*

233MHz PC PLUS FREE SCANNER PLUS FREE PRINTER





FREE COLOUR FLATBED SCANNER + FREE COLOUR INKJET PRINTER

HEWLETT PACKARD
233MHz Intel Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb SDRAM. 32Gb Hard Disk. 24 x Multimedia. 2Mb 3D Graphics. 33.6k modem. Over 16 top software titles including MS Works, MS Money '97 and MS Encarta '98.
MODEL: Pavilion 3250.

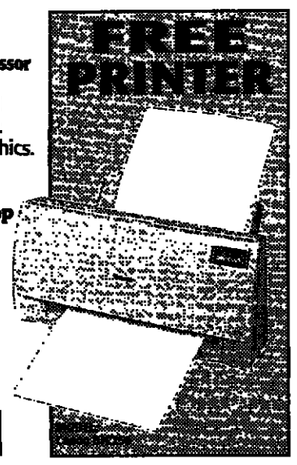
ONLY £999 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.*

FREE PRINTER WITH 233MHz PC



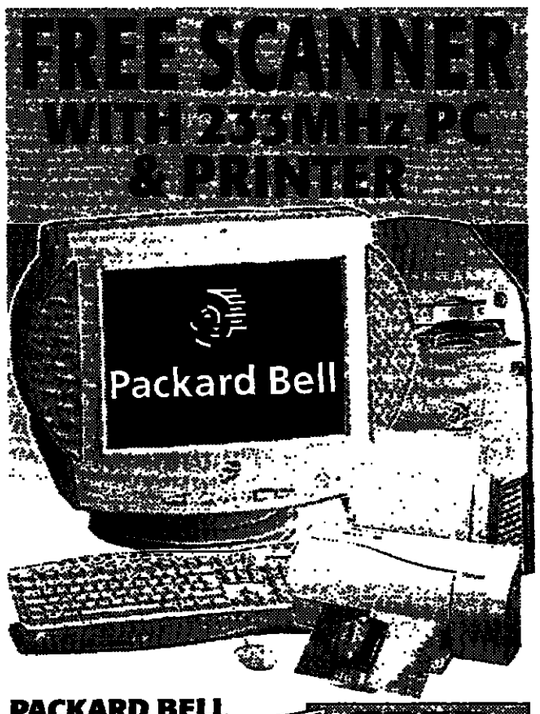
ACER
233MHz Intel Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb SDRAM. 2.1Gb Hard Disk. 512k Cache Memory. 24 x Multimedia. 2Mb Graphics. 33.6K Data/Fax modem.
Includes Works, Tomb Raider SE and 4 other top software titles.
MODEL: Acros P233MMX.



ONLY £899 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.*

FREE SCANNER WITH 233MHz PC & PRINTER



PACKARD BELL
233MHz Intel Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology
32Mb SDRAM. 4.3Gb Hard Disk. 256k Cache Memory. 24 x multimedia with speakers and subwoofer. 2Mb 3D Graphics. 14" SVGA monitor.
FREE OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE!
Total Separate Selling Price £1404.99
MODEL: Pulsar 23

PLUS **LEXMARK CJ7000** Photo Quality Printer
Up to 1200 x 1200 dpi resolution.

PLUS FREE FLATBED SCANNER

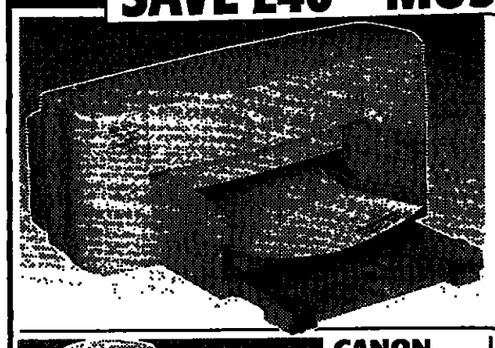


SAVE OVER £100

£1299 INC VAT

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION.*

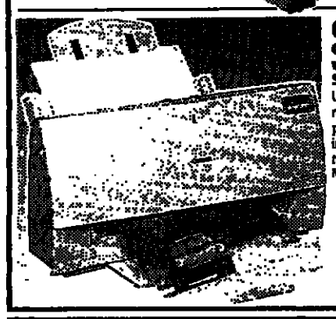
HEWLETT PACKARD SAVE £40 – MUST END MONDAY



HEWLETT PACKARD
Colour Inkjet Printer
Up to 600 x 600 dpi resolution. Up to 8 pages per minute (black). 7 pages per minute (colour). Photo quality printing on plain paper.
Was ~~£239~~. £229.
MODEL: Deskjet 720c.

SAVE £40 MUST END MONDAY

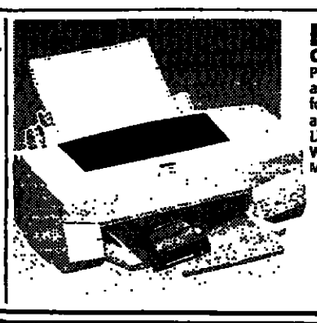
£199 INC VAT



CANON
Colour Inkjet Printer with Full Colour Scanner.
Up to 720 x 360 dpi resolution. Up to 4.5 pages per minute (black). Scan images in full colour at up to 360 dpi resolution.
MODEL: BJC4300 + Scan.

FREE FULL COLOUR SCANNER MUST END MONDAY

£159 INC VAT



EPSON
Colour Photo Printer.
Print superb quality photos at home without the need for a darkroom. Prints 4" x 6" and up to A4 size. Includes LivePix software.
Was £299. £269.
MODEL: Stylus Photo.

SAVE £60

£239 INC VAT

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

- ABERDEEN
- BIRMINGHAM JUNCTION 9 OFF M6
- BRISTOL
- CANTERBURY
- CARDIFF
- CHATHAM
- COLCHESTER
- COVENTRY
- DERBY
- DONCASTER
- EAST KILBRIDE
- EDINBURGH
- GATESHEAD
- GLASGOW
- HUDDERSFIELD
- HULL
- IPSWICH
- LEEDS
- LEICESTER
- LINCOLN
- LIVERPOOL
- MANCHESTER
- MERRY HILL-DUDLEY
- NORTH SHIELDS
- NORTHAMPTON
- NORWICH
- NOTTINGHAM
- OLDHAM
- PETERBOROUGH
- PLYMOUTH
- PORTSMOUTH
- POOLE
- PRESTON
- READING
- SHEFFIELD
- SLOUGH
- SOUTHAMPTON
- SPRUCEFIELD
- STOCKPORT
- STOKE
- SWANSEA
- SWINDON

LONDON AREA

- GUILDFORD
- LAKESIDE
- STAPLES CORNER
- BRENTFORD
- CROYDON
- ENFIELD

OPEN EVERY DAY EXCEPT EASTER SUNDAY (SCOTLAND OPEN EVERY DAY)

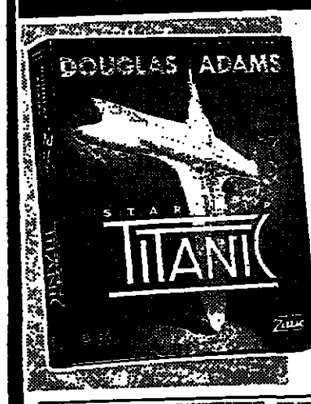
PSION SERIES 5 FROM £399



PSION
Handheld Computer
4Mb Memory. Backlit touch sensitive screen. Digital Dictaphone. Word Processor and spreadsheet (Windows '95 compatible) and sketching program.
MODEL: Series 5 - 4Mb

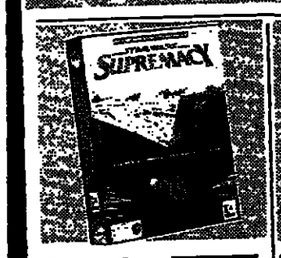
NEW **£399**

LATEST GAMES SOFTWARE



STARSHIP TITANIC
An incredible new interactive adventure from Douglas Adams, creator of Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy, set aboard the Starship Titanic, the ship that can't possibly go wrong.

NEW **£34.99** INC VAT

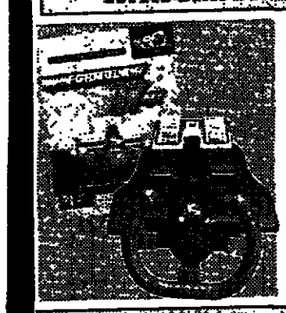


STAR WARS SUPREMACY NEW
Attempt to conquer the Star Wars galaxy. **£34.99** INC VAT



STARCRAFT NEW
Engage in a deadly mix of space combat, planetary assault and covert base infiltration as you seek to conquer the galaxy. **£34.99** INC VAT

FREE FORMULA 1 '97 WITH SIM STEERING WHEEL



Patented direct drive technology and built-in resistance steering make this the most authentic Formula 1 wheel and pedal system ever. Buy now, and the official Grand Prix game Formula 1 '97 is yours.

NEW **£79** INC VAT

MAKE YOUR BEST GAMES EVEN BETTER



ORCHID RIGHTEOUS 3D GRAPHICS CARD
Upgrade your PC games to arcade quality with this superb value 3-D accelerator Graphics Card. Includes trial versions of Motoracer, Hellbender, Actua Soccer. Was ~~£169~~. ~~£149~~. £129.

SAVE £60 **£99** INC VAT



CREATIVE LABS VOODOO² 3D GRAPHICS CARD
Accelerate your PC games to more than three times the speed with this fully equipped 12Mb card. Delivering a phenomenal 3 million triangles per second.

NEW **£229** INC VAT

REFERENCE SOFTWARE NEW TITLES



MICROSOFT ENCARTA 98 REFERENCE SUITE LIMITED EDITION
The complete British Reference collection for home learning comprising:
- Encarta 98 Encyclopedia Deluxe
- Encarta 98 World Atlas
- Bookshelf: British Reference Collection.

NEW **£99** INC VAT



MICROSOFT MY PERSONAL TUTOR NEW
Preschool and Primary School. **£29.99** EACH INC VAT



ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA 98 NEW
The world famous ultimate reference tool. **£125** INC VAT

UP TO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION
*Account is interest Free if repaid in full before, or with the 6/9/12th monthly payment. Options are as follows. 6 months for products £250-£699; 9 months for products £700-£1259; 12 months for products over £1500. Typical example. Cash price £1500. No deposit. 11 monthly payments of £50.71. Balance of £942.19 to be paid before or with 12th payment. 0% interest. Total paid £1500

OR SPREAD THE COST WITH 48 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
Typical example: If balance is not settled before the 12 month option period. Cash price £1500. 48 monthly payments of £50.71. Total amount paid £2434.08. All loans subject to status. 29.5% APR

†BASED ON CURRENT SELLING PRICES OF ACTUAL OR EQUIVALENT TITLES (EXCLUDING DISKS & MANUALS FOR PRE-LOADED SOFTWARE). *THIS PRODUCT IS LAUNCHED EXCLUSIVELY BY DSG RETAIL LTD. THE INTEL INSIDE LOGO, PENTIUM AND MMX ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF THE INTEL CORPORATION. ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT. WRITTEN CREDIT QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM: DEPT. MR/PCW, MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HP2 7TG.

هكذا من الأصل

RDAY APRIL 11 1998
ERIES 5
£399
NEW
£399
ALSO AVAILABLE
FAMES
VARE
STARSHIP
TITANIC
NEW
£34.99
NEW
£34.99
AUGUST '97
NEW
£125
£229
SOFTWARE
TITLES
£99

نسخة من الأصل

Homeless dancer rescued from the streets with frostbitten toes looks back on the Fonteyn of his youth

Margot's magic recalled by black ballet pioneer

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK



ARTHUR Bell's once-famous toes were suffering from frostbite when he was picked up recently by two ambulancemen who saw him stumbling off a pavement in Brooklyn. The elderly and disoriented homeless man was taken to a city hospital, where he was identified from his social security card. Soon, however, he was beguiling the orderlies with tales of his life as a ballet dancer in London, Paris and New York, and how he once went on stage with Margot Fonteyn.

Although the emergency room of any New York hospital is full of people who claim to be the King of Spain, Mr Bell's memories turned out not to be the ravings of a deluded man. Now 71, the frail patient was once a dancing pioneer who became the first black person to perform with the New York City Ballet. He was chosen as a guest soloist by Sir Frederick Ashton, the British choreographer, to dance for the company's 1950 world premiere of *Illuminations*, based on the poetry of Arthur Rimbaud. Even now, as a wrinkled old man subsisting on government handouts, he can still hum every note of Benjamin Britten's music for the piece.

The eldest of a Southern preacher's nine children, Mr Bell's odyssey could be a ballet on its own. At a time when black people were largely excluded from big ballet companies, he jumped on a Greyhound bus to liberal New York and, while working in a dress warehouse, attended classes. While rehearsing for *Illuminations*, Mr Bell limbered up on stage with Fonteyn, who was appearing in a New York production of *Sleeping Beauty* by the Royal Ballet, which Sir Frederick ran. "She was a great treasure," he recalls. "I have never been the same since." Mr Bell moved to Paris in the early 1950s. He gave up dancing as he approached 40 and returned to New York, where he did clerical jobs until about six years ago. He now lives on a pension of $400 (£240) a month, and cannot recall how he became homeless.

☐ *I spent the weekend at Ian Schrager's Delano Hotel on Miami's South Beach, a favoured retreat for sun-starved New Yorkers. What a culture shock. The severe minimalist Philip Starck interiors I could deal with. What I couldn't handle was the topless sunbathers with breast implants chatting incessantly on their cellphones as they (the sunbathers, I mean) floated in the pool all day.*



Bell: has not lost his memories of career

DAVID HOWELLS



BEAUTIFUL decoys are the way Jerry Palace, seen above on the streets of New York with two of his teasing assistants, claims to have caught more than 1,000 cheating husbands. So I sought out his professional opinion on the President's sex life, which still dominates conversation here.

Mr Palace's Check-a-Mate detective agency has earned notoriety in America for charging $125 (£75) an hour (five hours minimum) to send attractive decoys in pursuit of would-be lover boys. The decoys are wired for sound and record their victims trying to chat them up. The tapes are then delivered to clients — suspicious wives or girlfriends. It all sounds so much like Linda Tripp's surreptitious taping of Monica Lewinsky, the alleged mistress of Bill Clinton, for Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, that I felt sure Mr Palace would give me the low-down.

The hard-boiled former homicide detective had nothing but praise for Ms Tripp's covert action: "If I were a betting man, and I am, I would say there is definitely something there and it's being protected pretty well," he said. Mr Palace had just returned from Hollywood, where he is exploring a movie deal about his work.

Cheat buster puts money on Starr

One for the road leads to $12m suit

ELAINE KAUFMAN, the society saloon keeper, is marshalling her celebrity supporters to fight allegations that she clawed a customer who refused to buy a drink.

Ms Kaufman was dragged away by police from her legendary bar, Elaine's, on the Upper East Side after arguing with an Arkansan and his date (who had moved to the city from California just the day before) when they ordered one drink between them — a $6 (£3.60) gin and tonic — because the man was driving.

"She asked if the problem was that I didn't have enough money," said Jim Sorrels, 49. "Then she called us 'white trash'." When he politely told her that she was acting "like a pig", the 69-year-old grande dame allegedly scratched him down the cheek. "He could have had a knife or something," she said. Mr Sorrels is suing for $12 million.

☐ *A New York comedy club held a competition for funniest gay person. "Think of a world populated exclusively by gay men," suggested a contestant, Tom Rovine. "For example, if directory assistance were staffed entirely by gay men, you would get operators saying things like, 'You want the number for Nobu? Puhlease, that restaurant is so two-weeks-ago'."*

☐ My local gym has started offering "Firefighter Aerobics". Eric Torres, from the fire station, puts the fitness freaks through their paces with the equivalent of fireman's basic training.

Moves include carrying a heavy hose, ladder-climbing and wielding an axe to break down doors. Mr Torres plays a tape of a real emergency call to give the session a sense of urgency.



EYEBROWS are being raised by Natasha Richardson as she tells people her husband, Liam Neeson, who will star as Oscar Wilde, above, in *The Judas Kiss*, has more in common with the famous homosexual than one might think. No, not that. "Most think Wilde an effete Englishman," she says. "He was a strapping 6'4" Irishman".

The Sale of Excellence

BOSCH

"It has always been an unbearable thought to me that someone could inspect one of my products and find it inferior in some way. For that reason I have consistently tried to produce products which can withstand the closest scrutiny, products which prove themselves to be superior in every respect."

Robert Bosch (1861-1942)

What a performance !

6 'A' Rated Washing Machines

Economical and Superior 'A' Rated Wash Performance at competitive prices.

What is 'A' Rated Wash Performance

This is the best achievable wash performance from a washing machine according to the stringent EEC test procedure.

So how have **Bosch** managed to attain an 'A' rating for wash performance on so many machines

1. The intensity and movement of the laundry throughout the wash action
2. The drum rotation and drum speed
3. Unique paddles to both agitate and shower the laundry
4. Holes in the back, as well as the sides, of the drum **
5. Fuzzy Logic control

All these features combined together means **Bosch** can bring you the best possible wash results for your laundry.

** Not available on WOK 2001

WFF 2001 washing machine

A Wash Performance · A Energy Efficiency

- '3D' AquaSpa wash system (uses less water and electricity)
- Electronically controlled through Premium Fuzzy Logic
- 1000 maximum spin speed
- 6 stage spin speed selector
- 21 wash programmes
- Short wash
- Rinse hold option
- Very quiet operation
- Softline design

£529.99* 'A' Rated Wash

WFP 3201 'Aqua Tech' washing machine

A Wash Performance · A Energy Efficiency

- '3D' AquaSpa wash system (uses less water and electricity)
- AquaTech sensor for optimum rinse results
- Electronically controlled through Premium Fuzzy Logic
- 1550 maximum spin speed
- 6 stage spin speed selector
- Stainless steel porthole door trim
- 22 wash programmes
- Short wash
- Time delay 1-19 hours
- Extremely quiet operation
- Remaining time indicator
- Softline design

£779.99* 'A' Rated Wash

WFK 2801 washing machine

A Wash Performance · A Energy Efficiency

- '3D' AquaSpa wash system (uses less water and electricity)
- Electronically controlled through Premium Fuzzy Logic
- 1400 maximum spin speed
- 6 stage spin speed selector
- 21 wash programmes
- Short wash
- Time delay 1-19 hours
- Very quiet operation
- Remaining time indicator
- Softline design

£599.99* 'A' Rated Wash

The UK's First Fuzzy Logic Top Loader

WOK 2001 top loader washing machine

A Wash Performance · A Energy Efficiency

- Only 45cm wide
- Wash and shower system
- Electronically controlled through Fuzzy Logic
- 1000 maximum spin speed
- 6 stage spin speed selector
- Time delay 1-19 hours
- 13 wash programmes
- Rinse hold option
- Quiet operation
- Softline design
- 5kg capacity

£549.99* 'A' Rated Wash

Look in store for the EC ENERGY LABEL

This mandatory scheme was introduced to offer consumers a standardised method of choosing the most energy efficient appliances which also offer good performance as well. **Bosch** welcomes this scheme as we have consistently aimed for the lowest possible consumption rates whilst maintaining excellent wash results.

WFF 1401 washing machine

A Wash Performance · B Energy Efficiency

- Duo AquaSpa wash system
- Electronically controlled through Fuzzy Logic
- 1200 maximum spin speed
- Spin speed button for reducing spin speed
- Colour coded fascia for ease of use
- 16 wash programmes
- Rinse hold option
- Quiet operation
- Softline design

£429.99* 'A' Rated Wash

WFF 1201 washing machine

A Wash Performance · B Energy Efficiency

- Duo AquaSpa wash system
- Electronically controlled through Fuzzy Logic
- 1000 maximum spin speed
- Spin speed button for reducing spin speed
- Colour coded fascia for ease of use
- 16 wash programmes
- Rinse hold option
- Quiet operation
- Softline design

£399.99* 'A' Rated Wash

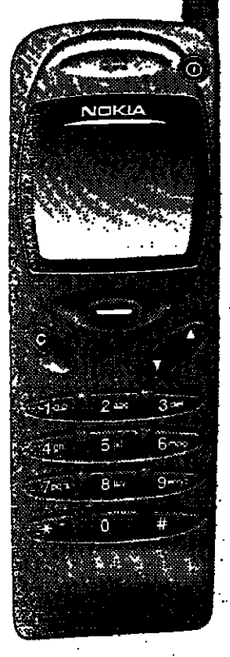
*Prices shown are manufacturers suggested selling prices between 1st April 1998 and 30th April 1998. Prices may vary from store to store.

BOSCH

Excellence comes as standard

Available from leading department stores and major electrical retailers.
For further information please call for free brochure and local stockist list on 01233 211500 (24 hours 7 days a week).
Robert Bosch Domestic Appliances, Grand Union House, Old Wolverton Road, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5PT.

FREE LINE RENTAL FOR YOUR FIRST 3 MONTHS



FREE LOCAL OPTION FOR 3 MONTHS
ALL VODAFONE TO VODAFONE AND LOCAL CALLS CHARGED OFF PEAK (10P PER MIN)*
FREE LATEST NOKIA 3110 PHONE
FREE UP TO £7 WORTH OF CALLS PER MONTH WORTH UP TO £84 A YEAR
FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £45
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE & IN CAR ADAPTOR WORTH UP TO £35
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

Monthly Line Rental after 3 months £11.09 (£17.50 inc VAT)
Connection Charge £29.79 (£35.00 inc VAT)
Monthly Itemised Billing £5.50 (£1.77 inc VAT)

Off peak calls	Peak rate calls
8.51p (10p inc VAT) PER MIN	29.79p (35p inc VAT) PER MIN

14 DAY PEACE OF MIND GUARANTEE

Ref: TM1104

NOKIA 3110
- Latest Nokia GSM Phone
- 95 hr battery/2.75 hr talk time
- Compact and lightweight

vodafone

OPEN: Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm • Fri 8am-8pm • Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 9am-6pm

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-Phone now on Freephone

0800 00 00 77

24 Hours

DIAL-a-PHONE

Offer subject to status, availability and a 12 month airtime contract through Dial-a-Phone (plus 30 day rental) upon receipt of each phone. Itemised billing and payment by direct debit are mandatory. Only available in mainland UK. Saturday delivery subject to surcharge. Peak times are 8am-6pm. Calls are within local STD code only. Written terms and conditions available on request. Dial-a-Phone Established No 3080985 Unit 18, Kingsbury Trading Estate, Birmingham Way, London NW9 8AU.

'Misguided' pilgrims mark Christ's final journey in streets of Jerusalem

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THOUSANDS of Christians who flocked to Jerusalem yesterday to follow in the footsteps of Christ on his way to Gethsemane may have taken the wrong route.

Jerusalem's leading Bible scholar, Jerome Murphy-O'Connor of the Ecole Biblique, disputes that the route taken annually by Good Friday pilgrims along the Stations of the Cross and Via Dolorosa has any connection to the path Jesus took to his Crucifixion.

According to the Irish-born scholar, author of the main modern archaeological guide to the Holy Land, Jerusalem was not built up to nearly the supposed level at the time, and evidence indicates that Jesus went in a different direction.

The Christians who began following the prayer route of 14th-century Franciscan friars "were more interested in piety than history", said Father Murphy-O'Connor, who adds that it is probable Pontius Pilate condemned Jesus to death on the other side of the city.

Father Murphy-O'Connor regularly guides visiting diplomats and statesmen on biblical walks through the Jerusalem area. He said that, approaching the millennium, the route taken by yesterday's procession was sanctified by tradition. "And you do get the same experience of walking in a narrow street, being jostled around by the crowd."

Yesterday's event — led by an elderly man in a loincloth, with a crown of thorns and a heavy cross on his shoulder — was held in a heatwave. The faithful made their way under the eyes of Israeli soldiers cradling assault rifles, whose presence had been boosted after a fresh warning of terror attacks following the assassination last week of Hamas's master bombmaker, Muhyideen al-Sharif.

The procession's leader had red paint dripping from the "wound" caused by the thorns. "Jesus needs your help. Who is going to help him?" another pilgrim dressed as a Roman soldier shouted. His words echoed through the narrow alleys of the Old City, annexed by Israel after its capture from Jordan in the 1967 war.

"The Old City is beautiful. I cannot describe it. It is like Jesus is walking among us. But it is sad that the people of Jerusalem are suffering like Jesus," said George Constantinos, 63, from the Greek island of Rhodes as he wiped tears from his eyes. He was referring to the Palestinian inhabitants of east Jerusalem, many of whom, on their way to pray in Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque, were held back by Israeli troops as the procession passed.

In another part of the Old City, a leading Israeli archaeologist claimed to have uncovered the main road that Jesus took when he visited the Jewish Temple. "Visitors will be able to walk on the streets of Jerusalem as they were in Jesus's time," said Gideon Avni, who disclosed that the site would be opened before 2000.

Jesus had AB blood, says shroud expert



Richard Owen in Rome looks at new claims surrounding DNA and stains found on Turin 'burial cloth'

A SCIENTIST in Turin claimed yesterday to have identified Jesus's blood group as AB after tests on the Turin Shroud, which many continue to believe is Christ's burial cloth.

Pierluigi Baima Bollone, Professor of Forensic Medicine at Turin University, said the blood tests were revealed in his new book, *The Shroud: The Proof* (*Sindone: La Prova*), to be published by Mondadori next week.

The shroud, which carbon-dating tests have suggested is a medieval fake, goes on show next Saturday at Turin Cathedral for the first time in 20 years. Already 700,000 telephone bookings have been made to see the shroud, which will be displayed for 65 days before being rolled up again and stored in a new fire-and-bomb-proof container. It has survived several blazes since its existence was first recorded in France in the 14th century, and was saved from a mysterious blaze at Turin Cathedral a year ago.

Photographic negatives of the cloth in 1898 revealed the image of a man bearing the marks of crucifixion. Carbon-dating tests carried out in 1988 showed that the cloth dated from the 13th or 14th centuries. But shroud scholars, known as sindonologists, continue to argue that the carbon dating was flawed, and that no medieval forger could either have faked the Crucifixion details so accurately or anticipated the invention of photography.

Professor Bollone, who heads the International Centre of Sindonology in Turin, said the image showed the marks of nails through the wrists and not through the palms, which was consistent with Roman practice, although a medieval faker would probably not have known this. He said it was still not known how the image was formed. But there were traces of DNA — a claim also made recently by the author Ian Wilson — and there was "AB human blood".

He said it was striking that there was no image beneath the blood stains, "from which we can deduce that the image was formed after the bleeding occurred". This would bolster the theory that the man bled because he was "subjected to a series of traumas which caused his death". In the case of Jesus, flagellation was followed by the Crucifixion.

Panorama magazine said the shroud remained "the most disconcerting archaeological find of all time". It said that, although some scholars believed the man on the shroud was too tall to have been a 1st-century Palestinian, the cloth contained pollen from plants known to have existed in Palestine at that time. The Pope, who will visit the shroud next month, has described it as "an object worthy of veneration" but has stopped short of declaring it genuine.

The pontiff yesterday led the traditional Good Friday *Stations of the Cross* service, carrying a wooden cross around the Colosseum, the site of early Christian martyrdom in ancient Rome. Six women representing five continents helped the ailing 76-year-old Pope to carry the cross.

☐ *Reservations to see the shroud can be made by calling freephone 0800 967951. Tickets are free.*

Weekend, page 1



Vincent Siew, Taiwan's Prime Minister, admires a replica of the Brussels Manneken Pis with Mr Siew's own head, given to him by a right-wing MP

Iranian women put the boot in

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRANIAN women have won the right to play football, despite the claims of indecency by outraged hardliners.

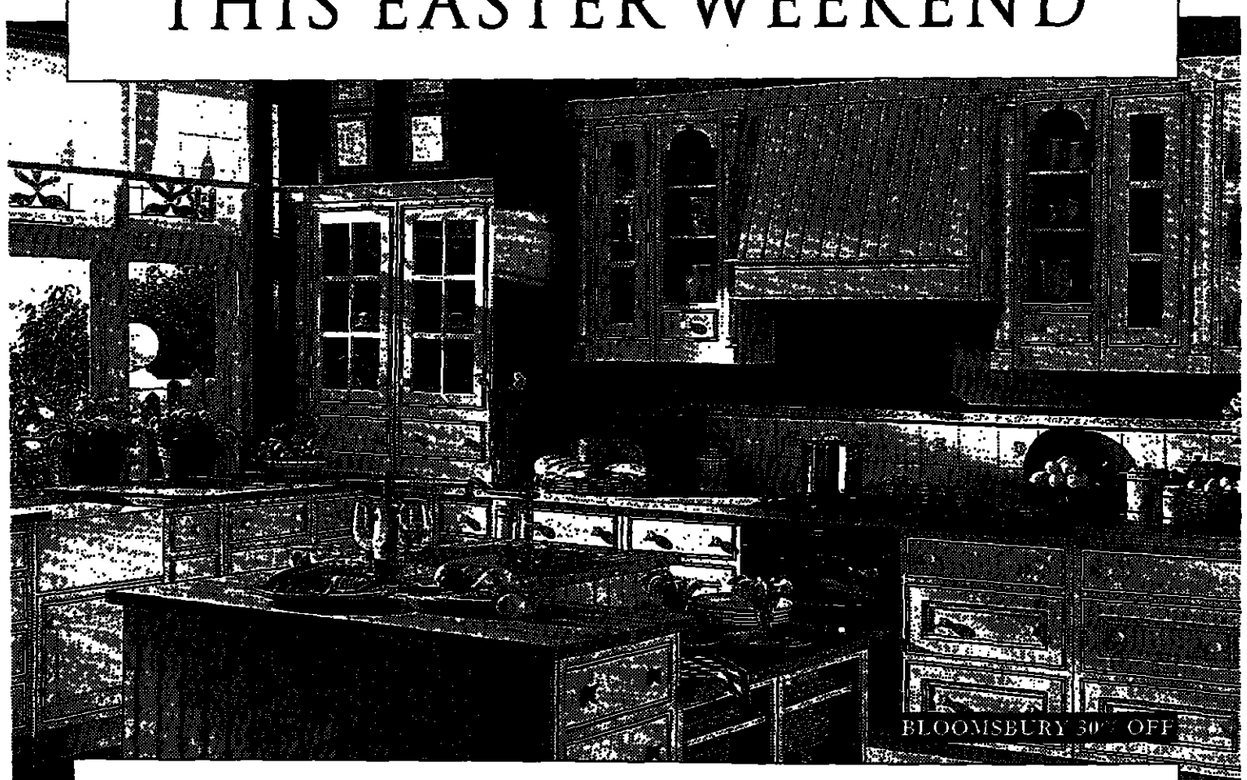
With football fever gripping Iran as the national team prepares to take on America in the World Cup, there is also mounting pressure to lift the ban on women attending men's soccer matches.

Such advances highlight the ferment in Iranian society after the election of President Khatami, a moderate cleric, last year. But the issue has been overshadowed by a bitter dispute over the detention on embezzlement charges of Tehran's popular Mayor, Gholamhossein Karbaschi. The row could prove a decisive turning point in the Islamic revolution.

Mr Karbaschi's supporters insist his arrest last weekend was a politically motivated act of revenge by the hardline judiciary to punish him for supporting Mr Khatami. The mayor's supporters threatened to organise mass street protests this week to free him from Tehran's notorious Evin prison.

40%* OFF

plus AN EXTRA 10% OFF† THIS EASTER WEEKEND



(NOW THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL AN EASTER OFFER)

At Magnet every single kitchen is designed not only to look stunningly beautiful, it's built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now there's a fantastic 40% off* most Magnet kitchen and bedroom cabinets, plus an extra 10% off this Easter weekend. There are some great offers on Whirlpool and Neff appliances too. Simply call in at your local Magnet showroom and find out why all Magnet products are designed for living and built for life. Your life. With over 200 stores nationwide there's bound to be a Magnet showroom near you. Telephone **0800 192 192** for details of your nearest store. Remember to quote code T128S.

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

Opening hours: Saturday 9.00-5.00, Easter Sunday England and Wales all stores closed (selected stores open in Scotland 10.00-4.00). Easter Monday 10.00-5.00. Tuesday onwards normal opening hours 9.00-5.00. Selected stores open until 8.00 on Thursday. Check each store for details. *Discounts on kitchens are off prices charged between 24th November and 25th December 1997. Discounts on bedrooms are off prices to be charged after 25th May 1998. †Plus an extra 10% off promotional prices when you spend £1000 or more

Economic surge boosts US surplus

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S surging economy is likely to push the federal budget surplus in this financial year to at least $50 billion (£30 billion), it was reported yesterday.

Tax dollars are pouring into the US Treasury as Americans scramble to meet a deadline of next Wednesday for filing income-tax returns. The influx has been fuelled by low unemployment, the Wall Street boom and a cut in long-term capital gains taxes from 28 to 20 per cent that was insisted on by Republicans last year.

If the new projection proves to be right, the target of reaching a balanced budget hammered out in a hard-fought agreement between President Clinton and the Republicans in July will have been beaten by four years. It would mark the first time since 1969 that the US Government had taken in more than it had spent.

The projection was said to come from an internal document of the Federal Reserve Board and was first reported by *The Washington Post*, although a statement from the board cautioned that the size of the surplus remained highly uncertain. Both official and private estimates varied over a considerable range, but much more would be known in the next few weeks as tax returns were processed, the statement said.

Anticipations of a hefty surplus are ratcheting up on several fronts. Earlier this week, the Congressional Budget Office increased its surplus prediction from $8 billion to $18 billion for the financial year ending next September 30. Some private economists are forecasting that the surplus could soar to $75 billion.

Barely defiant Duma delays Yeltsin choice

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE State Duma made a show of defiance yesterday by rejecting President Yeltsin's nominee for Prime Minister, but by a far smaller margin than expected, indicating his candidacy will eventually be approved.

Sergei Kiriyenko, the 35-year-old former Energy Minister who has been acting Prime Minister since Mr Yeltsin dismissed his entire Government last month, was backed by 143 deputies in the 450-seat legislature with 186 voting against him. Afterwards he said he was pleased and surprised to have received so much support in the first round, but regretted the formation of a new government would be further delayed.

Mr Yeltsin immediately wrote to the Duma Speaker, Gennadi Seleznyov, reaffirming Mr Kiriyenko's nomination. The assembly has to vote again within seven days. If it rejects Mr Yeltsin's choice three times it faces dissolution and new parliamentary elections. Few believe it will come to that.

The vote scarcely reflected the earlier debate's belligerence, when only one faction leader, Aleksandr Shokhin of Our Home is Russia, supported Mr Kiriyenko. He faced a barrage of questions from hostile deputies determined to expose his inexperience and lack of ability, but was calm, authoritative and painstakingly polite. He was also extremely dull.

But if the deputies were impressed by his knowledge and unflappability, they gave no sign in speeches after the question-and-answer session. One by one, they called for his rejection. Even Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the maverick ultra-nationalist who had said earlier that his Liberal Democratic Party would support Mr Kiriyenko, spoke against him vehemently.



Kiriyenko: surprised at level of Duma support

His opposition was not, however, on grounds of youth or lack of experience, but because in his view Mr Kiriyenko had reneged on what Mr Zhirinovsky said was a pledge by Mr Yeltsin to include Liberal Democrat members in the next government. "He is being disloyal to the President," he said.

Mr Kiriyenko has yet to name his government, but is expected to do so next week. Yesterday he merely confirmed reports that the acting Foreign, Interior, Defence and Finance Ministers — Yevgeni Primakov, Sergei Stepashin, Igor Sergeyev and Mikhail Zadornov — would keep their jobs in his Cabinet. All are acceptable to the Duma.

Wisely he made no mention of more contentious personalities such as Boris Nemtsov, acting First Deputy Prime Minister, or his dismissed former colleague, Anatoli Chubais, reviled by almost every Duma member. He was also careful not to be nailed down on government policies.

George Michael leaves refuge

George Michael, far right, leaves his Beverly Hills home with an unidentified friend, the star's first public appearance since his arrest for "lewd conduct" in a Los Angeles park (Giles Whittell writes). The pop singer braved a throng of reporters encamped outside the Malibu home of David Geffen, the Dreamworks studio executive and recording billionaire, where he had taken refuge after the events of Tuesday. The star had a meal on Thursday night with two friends at Spago, a local restaurant.



نسخة من الأصل

Iraqis accused by UN of continuing anthrax cover-up

BY JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE United Nations has given a warning that Iraq may be continuing to hide the scope of its biological warfare programme, despite Baghdad's recent agreement to allow weapons inspectors into its presidential palaces.

A UN report on the outcome of a week-long meeting between Iraqi officials and a panel of international arms experts in Vienna last month says Baghdad's disclosures about its biological weapons are "incomplete and inadequate". The report expresses concern that Iraq is hiding details of its production of the biological warfare agents anthrax, botulinum toxin and aflatoxin, and has failed to account for bombs designed to deliver the lethal agents.

"Iraq has presented falsified or altered papers, accounts and material to conceal its offensive BW [biological warfare] programme," the report says. "Since February 1996 Iraq has not provided further documentation or plausible explanations for many aspects of its BW programme. It is not certain whether deception with regard to some elements of the BW programme continues."

The panel's conclusion virtually guarantees that the next six-monthly assessment of Baghdad's co-operation with UN weapons inspectors — due out in the coming days — will provide no grounds for easing UN sanctions.

Diplomats predict that the six-monthly report will also detail problems during the inspection of President Saddam Hussein's eight presidential palaces by combined teams of weapons inspectors and diplomats. During those visits, Iraqi officials objected to helicopter overflights of the sites and tried to impede access to certain documents.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, in its separate six-monthly report on Iraq's nuclear potential, said that it still lacked information on certain sites involved in the production of nuclear-related materials, equipment and components.

Baghdad called last night for a boycott of the conference that Britain will host to speed up the delivery of the extra food which Iraq will be able to import in exchange for an increase in permitted oil sales.

Muhammad al-Sahaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, called the conference a "devious attempt, both in its formulation and its goals, because Britain is not neutral". He said it was a way of providing cover to make UN sanctions binding.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has invited all groups and agencies involved in the oil-for-food programme to the conference — in London on April 20 and 21.

Leading article, page 23

MIKE PROVOST / REUTERS



In fighting form: Russian Polykarpov warplanes of Second World War vintage fly over New Zealand's Mount Aspiring National Park near Wanaka on South Island yesterday. The planes, one piloted by Mark Hanna, a Briton, are among highlights at Wanaka's annual air show

WORLD IN BRIEF

Baby rescued from tornado rubble

New York: A nine-month-old baby, buried under a collapsed house, was found alive by rescuers after tornadoes swept through parts of southeast America, killing at least 42 people (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The baby, detected by a helicopter equipped with heat sensors, had spent nearly 24 hours in the debris of the home in Pleasant Grove, Alabama.

The State took the brunt of the destruction, wrought by huge hailstones and winds of up to 250mph, and 32 people died there. President Clinton declared portions of Alabama and Georgia disaster areas. The National Weather Service said the tornado was F-5 — its most powerful rating.

Paula Jones likely to appeal

Washington: Paula Jones is expected to appeal against the dismissal of her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton (Ian Brodie writes). She is expected to announce her decision at a press conference in Dallas on Thursday. An appeal would take the case to the federal Court of Appeal in St Louis, which is known for its conservative views. Lawyers consider that its judges are more likely to back Judge Susan Webber Wright, who summarily dismissed the case last week in Arkansas, than to grant Mrs Jones's request for a jury trial. If Mrs Jones were to lose in St Louis, she could seek a Supreme Court ruling.

Tourists hurt in park blast

Istanbul: A bomb exploded in a park in the heart of Istanbul's tourist district, lightly wounding nine people including three foreigners, Turkish authorities said. There were no serious injuries. Authorities at the nearby Haseki Hospital said two Indians and a New Zealander were among those hurt in the blast, adding that the worst injury was a broken leg. A short stretch of cracked paving stone and strewn rubble were visible in the small park in Sultanahmet, surrounded by cafés and museums of Istanbul's Byzantine and Ottoman past. *(Reuters)*

Greek Orthodox head dies



The death at 85 of Archbishop Serapheim, left, head of the independent Orthodox Church of Greece, is expected to open one of the most conservative churches in the Eastern Orthodox faith to a breath of modernisation (John Carr writes). Serapheim, a resistance fighter during the Second World War, was at its helm for 25 years, refusing to go despite ill health. He defended its independence from the state, having sanctioned democracy, but the Church made little intellectual progress.

Thais deny deal on Pol Pot

Bangkok: Thailand denied it had made any deal with America to capture Pol Pot, the former Khmer Rouge leader, but said the issue may have come up during regular bilateral talks. A Foreign Ministry spokesman was responding to a *New York Times* report that President Clinton had ordered plans for his arrest, and that the Thai Government had suggested it would be willing to take Pol Pot into custody if America agreed to spirit him out of Thailand speedily. *(Reuters)*

Vote victory for Pinochet

Valparaiso: Augusto Pinochet, 82, was handed a new victory when Chilean lawmakers here rejected a move to strip the former dictator of his lifetime Senate seat, which would have cleared him to stand trial for human rights offences. After a heated, 12-hour debate, the Chamber of Deputies voted by 62-52, with one abstention, against a measure to impeach General Pinochet. Loud protests erupted in the chamber and a banner saying "Chile pardons its traitors" was unfurled. *(AFP)*

Parents reject 'racist' bonus



Marseilles: The first couple to benefit from a cash bonus paid by the far-right National Front to native French parents said they would send the money back. Veronique Delessert and her husband, who got Fr5,000 (£500) from Bruno Mégret, above, chief of Vitrolles town council, after the birth of a girl, said the scheme discriminated against non-European immigrants. *(Reuters)*

So who really needs $8.5m?

New York: A 73-year-old woman has given $8.5 million (£5 million), her entire winnings from a lottery jackpot, to her New Jersey parish council (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Eleanor Boyer said: "I have my pension and social security. I have everything I need. Why let the money sit in the bank till I die?" Friends joked that she had given up the money for Lent.

BT just made the world cheaper.

USA 12p Save 9p
REP. IRELAND 11p Save 7p
CANADA 12p Save 9p
SWEDEN 13p Save 10p
AUSTRALIA 22p Save 17p
FRANCE 13p Save 10p
SOUTH AFRICA 38p Save 29p
JAPAN 31p Save 23p
SRI LANKA 56p Save 43p
INDIA 56p Save 43p

Now choose from 100 countries.

For just £1 per country per month, our new Country Calling Plans give you 25% off calls to that country. Together with our Friends & Family Overseas and PremierLine discounts, you could save 43% on up to 5 nominated numbers.

BT It's good to talk

Call us NOW on 0800 001 800 for your Country Calling Plans.

CHOOSE UP TO 5 CALLING PLANS FROM 100 COUNTRIES. PREMIERLINE COSTS £6 PER QUARTER AND IS RECOMMENDED FOR CUSTOMERS WITH CALL BILLS OVER £45 PER QUARTER. MINIMUM CHARGE 5P PER CALL. PRICES QUOTED ARE BT'S WEEKEND RATE PER MINUTE. NOT AVAILABLE ON BT CHARGECARD CALLS.

Overfishing dooms North Sea skate

Experts say the fish is now extinct off Britain and quotas for related catches are in operation, Nick Nuttall writes

THE common skate, one of the world's most graceful swimmers, a formidable predator and an excellent companion to malt vinegar and chips, is extinct off British shores.

Scientists charting the plight of fish stocks in the North and Irish Sea now believe it is gone and, given new insights into its lifestyle, is unlikely to return. Overfishing is to blame.

Paddy Walker, a British fisheries expert at the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research in Texel, whose findings will be published soon, said yesterday: "Before the First World War around half the catch of some European trawlers was common skate. But it is safe to say it is extinct and gone from the North Sea, apart from sporadic catches in the winter off the Shetlands."

Fish and chip shops still continue to sell "skate and chips", but Ms Walker said the food was no longer the common skate but a smaller and, many would argue, less succulent fish called thornback ray.

In an attempt to protect stocks of all skates and rays in the North Sea, fisheries ministers have for the first time agreed quotas for these fish. The quotas have just come into force. Dr Joe Harwood, assistant director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in Lowestoft, said these total allowable catches amounted to 6,060 tonnes, of which Britain can land 3,920 tonnes a year.

Ms Walker, whose findings are to be published in the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas' *Journal of Marine Science*, said the move was welcome and might help to conserve species such as thornback, spotted and cuckoo rays from overexploitation.

"But I think any management measures for the common skate will be too late," she said. Ms Walker, who has studied unique fishing data from Scotland dating back to the 1920s, has charted the abundance of various skates and rays. It shows that the large species, caught and used for food or animal feeds, have sharply declined, leaving the sea open to faster-maturing, smaller ones, such as the commercially unimportant starry ray.

The disappearance of the common skate really began in earnest in the mid-1950s with catches dwindling sharply, the new records show. Between 1981 and 1995 the size of skates and rays found by fisheries scientists fell, with none measuring more than 70cm (2ft 3in). Female common skates become mature at between 140cm and 180cm.

"This means that in the period 1981 to 1995 all the breeding females of the common skate have gone," said Ms Walker.

The demise of the common skate underscores the damage being done in fisheries across the globe, especially to long-lived species at the top of the food chain. Common skate feed on bottom-living fish, such as sole and plaice. There is evidence they can live to be 40 years old and take around 12 years to become sexually mature, by which time they weigh more than 100lb.

The intense fishing effort in the North Sea since the Second World War means that, like cod, common skate have been caught in increasing amounts before they are sexually mature and able to replace themselves.

A small Atlantic population of common skate, *Raja batis*, do cling on in the waters around the Isle of Mull. They have become the focus of a unique partnership between scientists and anglers who have been tagging the fish.

Davy Holt, an angler and unemployed engineer living in Clydebank who is working on the project, said yesterday that the fish seemed to live in and around the waters of Mull all year around. The finding has dispelled an old Scottish fishing myth that common skate moved far offshore in the winter. Mr Holt said the findings showed that recolonisation of the North Sea was unlikely.

Mr Holt's love affair with the common skate dates back to 1993 when he caught a small 40lb specimen. "I thought wow. It had these big sad eyes like a cow. A fantastic creature. They do not flap around when you hold them and do not try to bite you," he said.

CLASSIC RECIPES

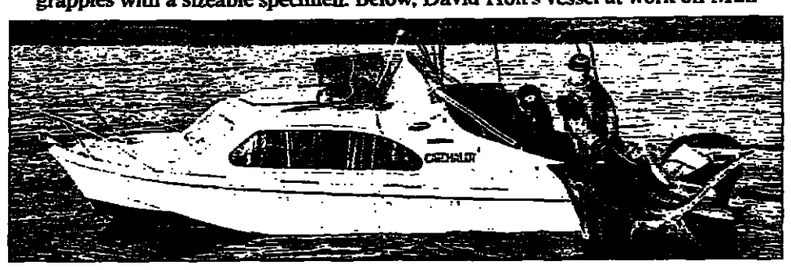
SKATE has had an honourable place on the tables of northern Europe since the Middle Ages, though the classic recipe for it has been banned in France as being carcinogenic (Robin Young writes).

The dish, known as *raie au beurre noire*, was expunged from continental menus after research showed that the practice of burning butter and adding vinegar to make the sauce constituted a danger to health. The British style has always been for skate served with capers. That could be because, as a cartilaginous fish with an uncalcified skeleton and a large oily liver, skate quickly develops "off" flavours.

Capers, like other strongly flavoured spices, first came into favour as a means of disguising such deterioration. Frances Bissell, *The Times* Cook, gives a more sympathetic recipe for the fish in today's *Weekend* section. In common with large flatfish such as halibut and the much finer brill and turbot, fully grown skate have been a rarity on the market for years and are scarcely seen. **Food and drink, Weekend, page 7**



Bill Little, an angler and volunteer who is collating the skate tagging project, grapples with a sizeable specimen. Below, David Holt's vessel at work off Mull



Fires may wipe out apes in Indonesia

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

THOUSANDS of the world's last wild orang-utans have been killed by forest fires in Indonesia. Experts believe the species could now face extinction.

In the last few weeks, fires in the Kalimantan region of Borneo and in Sumatra have destroyed more than a third of the orang-utans' forest habitat. The apes, which usually live high in the trees, have tried to escape the smoke by descending to the ground and heading for the open land of farms and villages. However, severe famine and drought means that the animals — once revered in Indonesian folklore — are now either killed and eaten or sold as exotic pets to rich Indonesians.

Barita Manullang, adviser for the World Wide Fund For Nature's Orang-utan Conservation Project in Indonesia, says apes fleeing the fires stand little chance of survival. "A few orang-utans, especially babies who have had their mothers killed, are reported to us and we can save them in time and send them to a rehabilitation sanctuary. But now there are so many fires, the orang-utans have fewer places to go and are being forced into different parts of the forest."

Estimates in 1993 suggested that there were between 16,000 and 25,000 orang-utangs left in the wild. Fires destroyed massive areas of Borneo and Sumatra late last year before returning even more ferociously this year. In 1997, much of Tanjung Puting National Park in Kalimantan — home to many of Indonesia's orang-utans — was destroyed.

FRANÇOIS GOHIER



The grizzly: faces hostile welcome in the backwoods

Ranchers steer rural alliance against return of grizzly

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A RURAL insurrection, mounted by cattle ranchers, farmers and worried mothers, is threatening to derail an ambitious plan to bring back the grizzly bear to the Bitterroot mountains, a rugged range between Montana and Idaho where the animal became extinct 50 years ago.

The plan is the brainchild of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which is fighting to arrest the dizzying decline of a bear it calls "magnificent". Locals in the Bitterroots, however, see the bear — quite simply, and without an ounce of sentiment — as grisly.

More than 200,000 grizzly bears, so named because of their white-tipped fur, once inhabited the lower states of America, outside Alaska. Now, excluding Alaska, where an estimated 30,000 remain, there are 800 to 1,000. Tens of thousands of the animals were wiped out by a combination of predator control, the destruction of their forest habitat, commercial trapping and hunting for sport.

The Bitterroots are one of six ecosystems identified by the wildlife service as a habitat suitable for the recovery of grizzly bear populations. Although the plan calls for the introduction of a mere five bears a year, beginning in 2000, local opposition is growing more shrill by the day.

Officials from the forest service have published reports which show that more than 75 per cent of people in the area are vehemently opposed to the project. Opponents include the Governor of Idaho, who says that the state will sue to keep the bears out, and Steve Mealey, the director of the state fish and game department. Under state law, no wildlife can be reintroduced into Idaho without a licence from Mr Mealey, and he has said that he will not issue one.

Ranchers' groups and farmers have threatened to take "all necessary measures" to keep the bears out; and parents' groups have signed petitions saying that the presence of bears in isolated rural outposts would put their children's lives at risk. No one has threatened openly to shoot bears on sight, but there is little doubt that folk will see their rifles as a valid option.

□ Bullets bounce off: The grizzly bear, *Ursus horribilis*, can be extremely dangerous when challenged or disturbed.

Grizzlies can weigh 750lb (53st) and stand 7ft 6in tall. They have enormous paws and their first action, when angry, is to make a fearsome swatting gesture. Hunters report that bullets often bounce off the bears' two-inch-thick skulls.

Yet the grizzly is not as dangerous as the polar bear. *Thalarctos maritimus*. These bears, which live exclusively on the polar ice cap, are the only ones known to hunt people.

Shell out less for more this Easter.

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D333

- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 333MHZ
- INTEL 440LX AGPset
- 32MB HIGH PERFORMANCE SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB ATA-33 HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY nVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 13.6" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- MICROSOFT® HOME ESSENTIALS '98

£999 (£1,209.08) INC. DELIVERY & VAT



SPECIAL OFFER MUST CLOSE 14TH APRIL

Exciting Upgrade Offers

- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA) AND ALTEC LANSING ACS 90 SPEAKERS £150 (£176.25 INC.VAT)
- UPGRADE TO MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION – CALL FOR DETAILS
- EXTRA 32MB RAM £75 (£88.13 INC.VAT)

It's our most incredible Easter offer yet: a superfast, 333MHz Pentium® II Processor based system for only £999 (£1,209.08 incl. Del & VAT). Included in this great holiday package is Microsoft® Home Essentials 98, with MS Word 97, MS Works 4.5, MS Money 98 (UK) - and that's just for starters*. We're also offering great-value upgrades. But hurry. This offer closes on 14th April. So call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer** now.

*Also included: MS Encarta World Atlas 98 (UK), MS Puzzle Collection 2.0 **Source: IDC

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE**

0870 152 4648

BETWEEN 8AM & 8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM TO 4PM SAT, 11AM TO 4PM SUN

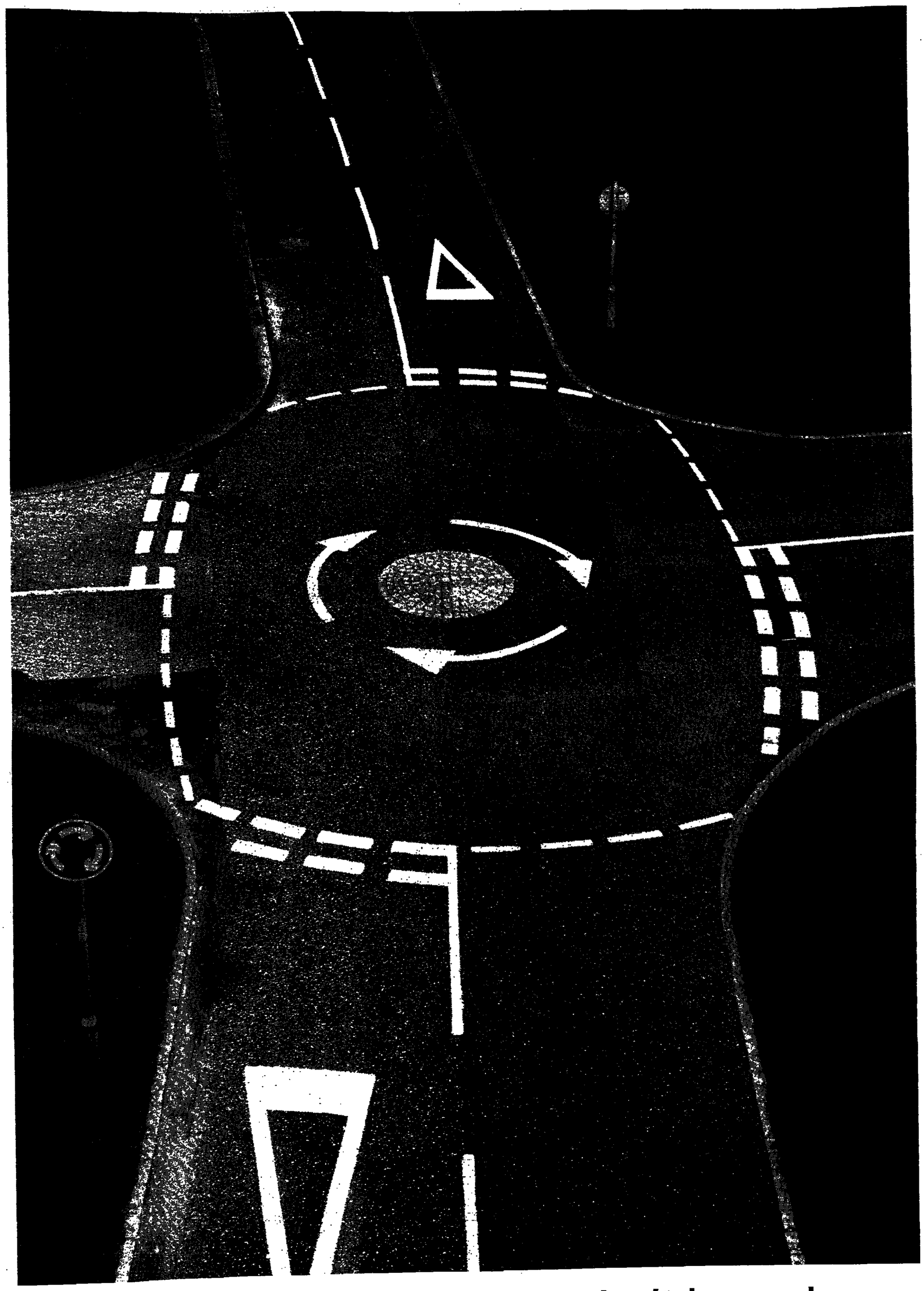
To order online 24 hours:

www.dell.com/uk/buydell

DELL®

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Inspiron is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks and Office 97 is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery at £30 (£35.25 incl VAT) per system. Finance is available subject to status. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The photographed product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95. Microsoft Office Software reference tools are supplied on CD in hypertext format for Dimension PCs. Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Products c/o Millbanke House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RD. Offer available for a limited period only. Dell terms and conditions of sales and service apply.

هذا من الأصل



One circuit where quattro isn't banned.

Following Audi's success in the 1996 and 1997 British Touring Car Championships, the race organisers have decided that our quattro four wheel drive system is too good to race. Which now means, of course, that an Audi on the road can be more gripping than an Audi on the race track. In a roundabout sort of way.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES



SPORT:
Your full guide to Easter Bank Holiday football and racing



TUESDAY
Sinead Cusack on her National debut
Cricket: What the new season has in store

WEDNESDAY
Inter//face
Technophobia — how you can learn to love your computer



THURSDAY
Books:
Elaine Showalter on the end of the world

FRIDAY
Andy Summers
Life after The Police
Media
Why wildlife films make millions
Order today
3 CDs for £5



SATURDAY
In your 100-page glossy magazine
HOT LOOKS FOR SUMMER:
Carrie Otis models American trailer trash

Challenge over Thames boat people

Dominic Kennedy on refugee alert about Dome homes on water

THE biggest floating community on the Thames since convicts were left to rot on prison hulks during the Georgian era is being planned as a home for some of the 4,000 workers building the Millennium Dome.

The *Casa Marina*, which can sleep 280 people, is ready for mooring at a wharf on the Greenwich Peninsula, relieving the accommodation crisis in a borough whose 50 registered bed-and-breakfast landladies are struggling to cope.

Close by, another wharf has been chosen for a floating three-star hotel providing 175 beds for some of the 12 million visitors expected to attend the New Millennium Experience in 2000. The ideas have met strong resistance from official bodies who believe they will be an eyesore.

There are also serious worries that the vessels will be turned into floating refugee camps. Harbourmasters at the Port of London Authority are determined to resist a wave of attempts by entrepreneurs to moor homes for asylum-seekers, prisoners and migrant workers. A glut of redundant accommodation vessels from oil rigs has come on the market.

The 140ft, five-deck *Casa Marina* is 33 years old. A colour brochure describes it as suitable for corporate personnel, project staff, contractor personnel and refugees. The vessel has 16 showers and the brochure shows a typical room with four beds, a table, chairs and basin. The intention is to house 80 workers but, if planning permission were granted, it would be difficult to stop it being converted for use as a more crowded home for asylum-seekers.

The borough's planners are unhappy with the idea. Describing the *Casa Marina*, one has written in a report to councillors: "Aesthetically, the structure has the appearance of a five-storey Portakabin."

The other proposal is for the first floating hotel on the Thames, described by the applicant, Meridian Developments, as a "floatel" with public restaurant. The 170ft craft, currently moored on the Continent, has recently returned from an "offshore construction project". Again, the planners are hostile. A report, which planners will consider on Tuesday, described it as "a dull and uninteresting vessel of poor design".

Living on the Thames has been fashionable since houseboats became popular in the 1930s, and there are currently 260 of the little painted craft bobbing on the water's edge from Twickenham to Deptford.

However, from 1770 to the early 1800s, redundant man-o'-wars were turned into prison hulks such as the notorious *Justicia*. Convicts were crammed 800 to a ship.

During the plague of the mid-1660s, thousands of watermen who once rowed travellers retreated to their boats and repelled all boarders. Bob Aspinall, librarian of the Museum in Docklands, said: "They stayed there until the plague died out. They had the lowest mortality rate."

ROBIN MAYES



Care story: Nina Kaye and Timothy Nathan with their children Simon, 8, and Mark, 7. Ms Kaye found agencies failed to check nannies

Ministers seek return of nanny state

Worrying stories of injury and ignorance lie behind call for compulsory registration of agencies and child carers

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE GOVERNMENT is to establish compulsory regulation of nanny agencies in an effort to stamp out operators who charge parents hundreds of pounds but fail to carry out proper checks on prospective employees.

Ministers are also considering the introduction of a statutory nanny register, which would put Britain's 100,000 nannies on a professional par with nurses, midwives and health visitors. The plans would for the first time provide parents who employ a nanny with a degree of official assurance that the person looking after their child was fit and proper to do so.

The proposals are expected to be included in the National Childcare Strategy, to be published next month. Colette Kelleher, director of the Daycare Trust, which campaigns for better childcare, said: "If you have a nanny register, then you also need a procedure for deregistering nannies who are guilty of malpractice."

A nanny register would have helped to reassure Cheryl Winton, who desperately tried to warn agencies against hiring a nanny she blamed for her baby's brain damage. When she employed the nanny, through a respectable agency, she never imagined that her newborn baby would end up critically ill.

The consultant paediatrician who saved Jemma called in the police when it became clear that the girl's head injuries could not have been there since birth or caused by a virus. Both parents were interviewed before the nanny, at 22 the same age as Mrs Winton, came clean.

"She admitted she had shaken Jemma on various occasions, not realising that shaking a six-week-old baby can cause brain damage," Mrs Winton said. "What really, really happened we will never know. The police advised us not to prosecute because there was no proof. We are talking 23 years ago; I don't think that would happen today."

When she informed agencies, one confirmed that it had the woman on its books but said it would not have recommended putting her in sole charge of a child. Jemma has returned home to West London for Easter with Mrs Winton, a former public relations consultant. "She is lovely," says her mother, "but she can't cross the road herself, she can't read or write. She will never lead an independent life."

Nina Kaye, 46, a concert agent whose artistes have included the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and the violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, was amazed how many nanny agencies failed to check candidates. She liked one girl at interview, but was surprised she had no reference from the family who had employed her for nine months. She rang the father of the house. "I couldn't get the guy off the phone saying how utterly appalling she was."

The agency retorted that the girl had supplied the necessary two references: one from a college, the other from a summer job at a riding school. It never checked her record at work.

When Ms Kaye did employ a first-time nanny through an agency, she walked out after four days, saying she found the job boring. Next came a nanny who ignored her five-month-old son, Simon. "We noticed he stopped babbling. He wasn't getting any stimulation. Every time we came home we would hear her switching the television off."

As Anne Waddington, a barrister specialising in child protection, toured the western circuit, she registered with nanny agencies from Bristol to Bath and Brighton, throughout London and as far as Yorkshire. She gave 250 candidates a searching cross-examination before selecting six who were good enough for Lucy, 5, and Harry, 3.

Mrs Waddington came across unsuitable nannies who were being recommended by agencies demanding commission fees between £800 and £1,600. One girl had clocked up 110 miles a day in a previous family's "nanny car". It was her way of "coping with stress".

Mrs Waddington said one girl "had absolutely no relevant childcare experience but felt she could learn a lot from children aged 3 and 5.

"I have been very unnerved interviewing people who, after three hours with me, are lulled into such a sense of security that they will admit to hitting children, scratching them and locking them in cupboards — but agencies will not take them off their books."

Several private registers are already exploiting the demand for registration but, while they appear to be official, they are unregulated and have no access to police records. They charge nannies up to £100 to be on their books.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cleared officer may face second inquiry

The Army is to consider further action against Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Pople over allegations that he had a second affair. Colonel Pople, 42, was cleared by a court martial on Thursday of threatening Lieutenant-Commander Karen Pearce, his former mistress, and having an adulterous affair with her while he was her immediate superior.

But yesterday Jennifer Jackson, 41, a former air hostess, claimed Colonel Pople had a sexual relationship with her in 1992, producing love letters and romantic poetry almost identical to that sent by him to Commander Pearce.

Tall order

Back complaints are costing 70 million working days a year because Britain is failing to make room for growing generations, according to the Tall Persons Club. It says designs have failed to keep pace with size and cater for people of 50 to 100 years ago.

Jail bars priest

A Roman Catholic priest was cautioned by police for smuggling a camera and chocolates into Kingston prison, Portsmouth, where he was a chaplain. Father Derek Reeve, 67, has been banned from the jail, where two nuns were caught smuggling tobacco last year.

Murder charge

Christopher Moffatt, 26, missing from Parklands Hospital, Basingstoke, for two months, will appear in court today, charged with murdering Anthony Harrison, 63, a retired civil servant, and the attempted murder of his wife at their home at Andover.

Late for date

An anonymous Valentine card posted in Southampton in 1932 has been delivered to a house in Salisbury. The intended recipient, a woman, has long since moved away, but a young couple now at the address were getting married the following day.

THE SALE SO BIG IT COMES IN 5 PARTS

LAST CHANCE! EASTER WEEKEND ENDS WED APRIL 15TH

PART 1 WE'VE CUT THE COST OF CABINETS TO LESS THAN HALF PRICE

PART 2 WE'VE CUT OUT THE COST OF FITTING INSTALLATION INCLUDED*

PART 3 WE'VE CUT THE COST OF FINANCE NOTHING TO REPAY UNTIL 1999*



NEFF OR TECNIK

PART 4 WE'VE CUT THE COST OF APPLIANCES MANY APPLIANCES HALF PRICE OR LESS

ALL PRICES INCLUDE FITTING
INCLUDING ELECTRICS† & PLUMBING†

COOKING
MICROWAVE OVENS
FULLY INTEGRATED FREEZING & REFRIGERATION††
LAUNDRY††
DISHWASHING††
STAINLESS STEEL

OVENS THC251. RRP £249 £135 FITTED
FREEZING THE621. RRP £349†† £177 FITTED
HOBS THE381. RRP £159 £72 FITTED
REFRIGERATION THR601. RRP £499†† £166 FITTED
EXTRACTION THE591. RRP £289 £155 FITTED
LAUNDRY THL901. RRP £699†† £342 FITTED

24.8% APR VARIABLE

PART 5 FREE 12 PLACE DISHWASHER RRP £559 with every kitchen THIS WEEK
ABSOLUTELY FREE
FREE DISHWASHER WITH ALL ORDERS OVER £2500, ORDERED AND DELIVERED WITHIN 14 DAYS. MOBEN CAN INSTALL YOUR FREE DISHWASHER INCLUDING PLUMBING, ELECTRICS AND JOINERY AS AN EXTRA†.

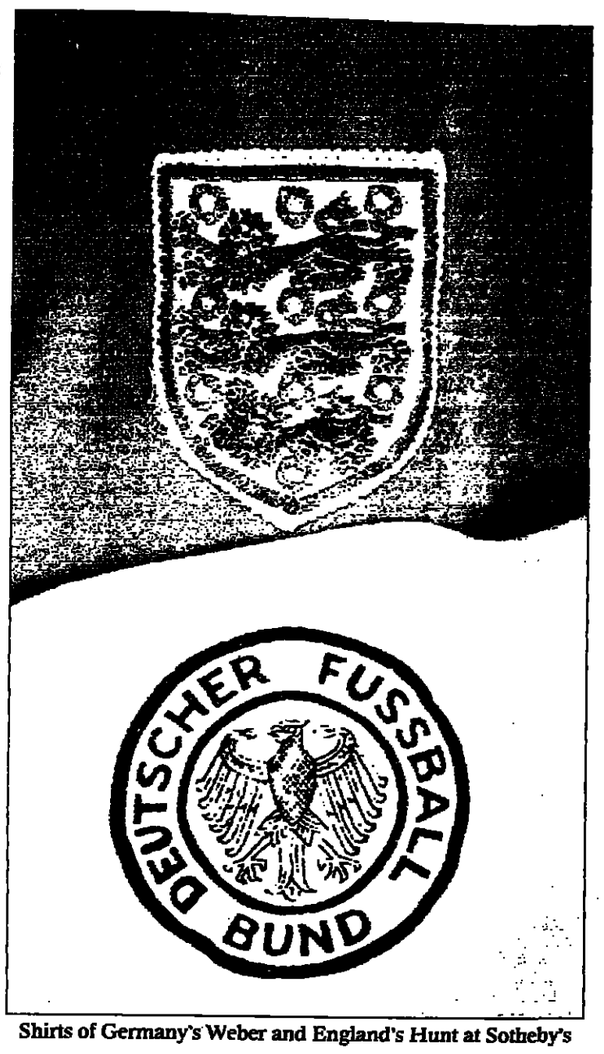
THERE'S A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU OPEN ALL WEEKEND!
OVER 280 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE — OPEN 7 DAYS —
TALK TO YOUR LOCAL SHOWROOM DIRECT
0345 001122
SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK: MON – FRI 10.00AM – 5.30PM SAT 9.00AM – 5.30PM SUN 11.00AM – 5.00PM
MOBEN

Pictures used for illustrative purposes only. Only one of each type of appliance i.e. only 1 hob, 1 oven etc. when you buy a Moben kitchen for £2500 or more.

*Typical Credit example: Cash price £2500 less 20% deposit of £500. Sixty-seven daily repayments of £30.78 (Variable). 6 months deferred plus. Mobens works up to first 4 payments (ie. March orders 4 months, April orders 3 months). Anywhere less £30. Total credit price £3467 (Variable). Interest charged from opening of account. Subject to status. Written quotations on request. Kitchen and appliances offers only apply to UK mainland kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order, i.e. 1 hob, 1 oven etc. Offers refer to prices list dated 24.11.97. Price examples exclude preps, ovens, hobs, sinks and taps and any other appliances. †Fitting excludes customers' own appliances and is to worktable on site supplier. †† Integrated doors available at extra cost. No other offers apply

هذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل



Shirts of Germany's Weber and England's Hunt at Sotheby's



Billy Wright's England caps at Christie's: his 100th cap for his country is at centre of front row

Soccer trivia bids reach fever pitch

Russell Jenkins on how transfer prices are soaring for old boots, faded shirts and the battered trophies of yesteryear

Competition between a new generation of museums dedicated to international and club football is forcing up the auction prices of once-derided items of soccer memorabilia.

In the past, fans have rarely contemplated the artefacts of the sport's rich heritage beyond idly wondering how much their pile of old match-day programmes mouldering in the attic might be worth. But a switch of focus by museum buyers, the explosion in soccer theme cafés and a growing number of individual collectors have transformed battered old boots, faded shirts and the tarnished trophies won by soccer stars into highly prized items.

Christie's auctions of soccer memorabilia have matured since their first sale in 1989 when 200 lots fetched £5,000. But bidders fought tooth and nail at Phillips' sale in Cardiff this week to get their hands on a rare set of programmes for Merthyr Town's brief escapade in the league in the 1920s. In fast and furious bidding, three programmes for matches raised more than £1,500.

George Cohen's World Cup winner's medal, the greatest prize so far, is expected to fetch more than £80,000 when it is sold by Christie's in June. In between, anything from soccer's postwar "golden age", spanned by Billy Wright's lengthy tenure as England captain, is snapped up. Most collectable is memorabilia shedding light on the era of the Busby Babes. The collections of Billy Wright, Ray Kennedy, Dixie Dean and Danny Blanchflower have raised up to six figures.

Rarer items are also proving attractive. A shirt from England's first official international, against Scotland in 1872 at the West of Scotland cricket ground in Glasgow, fetched £20,000. It belonged to Arnold Kirke-Smith, an Oxford University player selected once for the national side.

For obscurity value, this is only matched by the collection, including international caps, of Peter O'Dowd, who played three times for England in the 1930s as well as for Burnley, Blackburn and Chelsea.

Mike Ashton, the Phillips sports memorabilia consultant, said: "Football memorabilia has really taken off. Prices have gone sky high, so much so it is difficult to compare them with three to four years ago. There is a boom in this market. I cannot get enough quality football material. We have theme cafés and now there are the buyers from the museums as well as the general collectors and dealers in the market. They have all pushed prices up much higher."

Anything that has provenance will sell very well. If a particular item — a cap or ball — can be linked to a particular game or individual, it will enhance its value. Several sales ago, the international jersey presented by Bobby Moore to the surgeon who delivered his first child, along with a photograph showing the joyous occasion, fetched £1,500. Reports that his first wife, Tina, is ready to part with more is whipping the market into a frenzy.

Pelé, the legendary Brazilian star, officially opened the £4 million state-of-the-art Manchester United museum at Old Trafford yesterday. He will loan it his personal collection — the first time it has been displayed outside his home country.

The Football Museum in Preston, being planned with the help of a £7.6 million lottery grant, is due to open in autumn next year. Football will be coming home for Preston North End's Deepdale ground, the last remaining site on which the game has been played since the foundation of the league. The display will be built around the Fifa collection. Sir Tom Finney has shown his appreciation by donating a number of mementoes from his career, including the cap, signed programmes and a drinking bowl presented after a match against Argentina.

Meanwhile, a permanent exhibition of soccer photographs of grounds around the world is opening in Ambleside in the Lake District. The Homes of Football boasts that it is opening its doors ahead of any of the other collections.

Grant MacDougall, Christie's consultant, said: "A lot of clubs are realising their history is what the present club structure is based upon. For many years, they did not think along those lines." After Christie's first sale of soccer memorabilia, later that year the auction house sold the late Alex James's 1930 FA Cup winner's medal for Arsenal.

"We soon realised there were people out there who were really keen to own a cap or a winner's medal," Mr MacDougall said. "Since then, we have been slowly but surely going through some of the legendary names in British soccer."

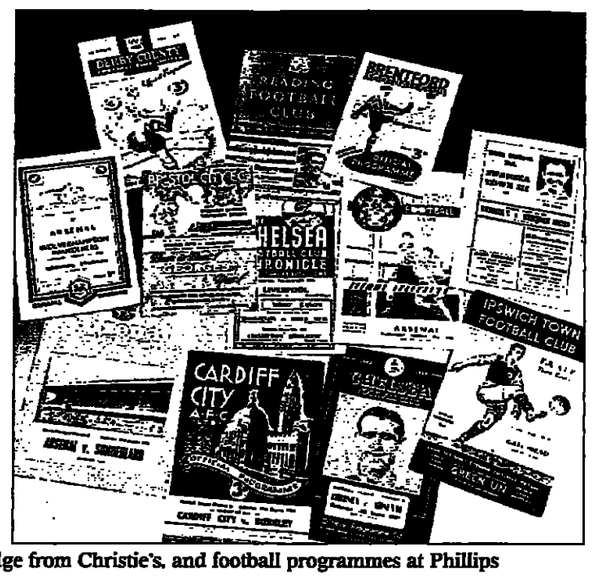
He says that the single most costly item of memorabilia sold was a 6ft silver and bronze charity shield presented by the Sheriff of London in 1897, to be contested between the top professional and amateur sides of the day. It was so big that teams had be photographed sitting around it. The trophy, that was too big for the winning team to carry around the pitch on a victory lap, went for £30,000.

Mr MacDougall recalls with pride the sale of Billy Wright's 100th England cap. It fetched £8,000. At Phillips, Mr Ashton speaks affectionately of a photograph album charting Sheffield United's progress through the cup and league in 1888-89. It made £5,500.

Football, pages 34-38



The Sheriff of London shield in about 1900: it fetched £30,000



A 1966 World Cup badge from Christie's, and football programmes at Phillips



Pelé at the opening of the Manchester United museum yesterday

Mortgage rates that are fixed.

Repayments that are not.

Imagine paying your mortgage safe in the knowledge that the interest rate will stay exactly the same until 30 April 2000. Imagine that you could vary the amount of your repayments to suit your needs at anytime. With Yorkshire Bank's Flexible Payment Mortgage that's exactly what you get, and it will remain flexible throughout the life of your mortgage.

Ask about our Flexible Payment Mortgages with fixed rates from 4.9% (8.2% APR).

The Flexible Payment Mortgage is just one of the many ways we can create a tailormade package especially for you. So, if you're looking for a fixed rate of interest for a period of time, but would like the way you pay to be flexible, talk to us.

We'll tell you everything you want to know about our range of fixed mortgages. Come into one of our branches or, give us a call on **0800 20 21 22**.

Yorkshire Bank
Tailoring banking to your needs

The Flexible Payment Mortgage is available subject to status. Applicants must be aged 18 or over. Written quotations on request. Security in the form of a legal mortgage over the property is required. A guarantee may be required. Interest rates may vary following expiry of the fixed interest rate which could affect repayments; rates correct as at 8 April 1998. Typical example: a Flexible Payment Mortgage of £50,000 over 17 years and 4 months at an interest rate of 4.9% (APR 8.2% fixed) until 30 April 2000 and thereafter at the prevailing variable rate which is assumed to be 8.7% (APR 9.2% variable). 208 gross monthly payments commencing at £292.67 in the first year whereafter payments are increased by 0.9% resulting in 12 payments each of £295.30 in the second year, whereafter payments are increased by 2.7% each year resulting in 12 payments each of £305.96, £316.92, £328.18, £339.74, £351.61, £363.81, £376.33, £389.19, £402.40, £415.96, £429.89, £444.20, £458.89, £473.98, £489.48 then 3 payments of £305.40 and one final payment of £14,170. Total amount payable £97,652.09, includes an establishment fee of £150, a fixed rate booking fee of £250 and estimated solicitors' fees of £176.25. The maximum loan is 95% for First Time Buyers, 90% for existing property owners, based on the lower of the purchase price or valuation. For loans of more than 90%, Mortgage Guarantee Insurance is required. Loans of more than 75% may require a professional valuation and an additional fee. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Yorkshire Bank PLC, 20 Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8NZ.

Steel stops 'dithering' to seek a seat in the Scottish Parliament

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LORD STEEL of Aikwood has ended months of speculation by announcing that he will seek election to the Scottish parliament. The former Liberal leader, widely tipped to become the parliament's first Presiding Officer or Speaker, will today apply to join the Liberal Democrat candidate list for the Edinburgh and Lothian region.

Lord Steel said yesterday that since last year's devolution referendum he had been "like a man with a pair of whispering birds, each perched on a shoulder". In one ear, he was told: "Don't be daft. You've done 32 years in democratic politics. You can pontificate on platforms, including your comfortable bench in the House of Lords, and your fishing rod is underused. Leave it to others."

But in the other, the "bird" reminded him that his experience and his link to Westminster via the Lords would be useful in the fledgling parliament and he should "stop dithering and get stuck in". It will be up to the party membership in Lothian to endorse his application in a ballot. If successful, he will stand as an additional member for the 129-seat parliament at Holyrood, Edinburgh; 73 members will be elected next year using the traditional first-past-the-post system and 56 additional members will be drawn from eight regional lists by proportional representation. He will not have to leave the House of Lords.

The Liberal Democrats were short of high-profile candidates, despite long support for devolution. As a key-figure in the Lib-Lab pact of the late 1970s and a close friend of Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, Lord Steel's involvement also raises the possibility of an alliance between the two parties in the face of growing Nationalist support. Under proportional representation, no party is expected to win an outright majority.

He said: "For Scottish Liberal Democrats, the opportunities in the new parliament are especially exciting. We are likely to experience consensus and coalition politics rather than a replication of the Westminster adversarial system. So what are the likely coalitions? Labour and Tory? Labour and SNP? Tory and SNP? It is surely more likely that the Lib Dems will be part of any equation."

Lord Steel, who lives at Aikwood Tower near Selkirk, became Britain's youngest MP at 26, when he won a by-election in the Scottish Borders in March 1965. He went on to hold the seat through eight subsequent elections until he retired from the Commons last year. As a veteran campaigner for devolution, he co-chaired the Scottish Constitutional Convention, a cross-party group that drew up the plans for change. He said: "Scotland is about to embark on redressing a wrong committed in 1707 when, in the course of sensibly entering the Union, the Scottish Parliament was abolished. Liberal leader Gladstone's vision of home rule all round is coming nearer. Our hour has come."

PHILIP HOWARD AT THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Veiled hints hide truth on women

THE classic commonplace says that a woman was not liberated in ancient society. Her proper place was under a man. But in a paper to the Classical Association Conference, Lloyd Llwellyn-Jones of Cardiff argued that a woman's lot was even worse than we supposed. He thinks that throughout Greek history she had to go heavily veiled.

This applied especially to the upper classes during their rare public appearances. At first this seems an odd theory. Only a handful of artistic sources show women cocooned in heavy veils. However, far more pictures survive from the archaic to the Hellenistic period showing women with their heads covered with a Hermès scarf, like a modern Sloane Ranger.

Mr Llwellyn doubts these artistic sources. In particular, he thinks that the act described as "unveiling the bride" was meant to show the reverse. The bride is covering her face, not revealing it. But the conventions of Greek art made this difficult to portray.

Islamic and other modern veil societies suggests the reasons. The pollution thought to stream from a woman's hair, eyes and mouth needed to be concealed in public. It was one more way of making a woman socially invisible. Enveloping her with veils reconfirmed her modesty and prudence. The Greek texts from Homer onwards also suggest that covering that which is most desired was a sexual turn-on or, at worst, the camouflage for a sexual turn-off.

☐ David Woods, from Maynooth University, told the conference at the University of Wales, Lampeter, that Caligula planned to bridge the Channel to invade Britain. His construction of a bridge of ships from Baiae to Putoli in AD39 was a rehearsal. Mr Woods's proposition suggests that Caligula cannot have read Caesar's account of the hazards of the Channel, or perhaps that prudent military engineers were slow to argue with a tyrant.



Spartacus: a metaphor for racial disempowerment?

Artists' Rome truths

THE mythologies of the ancient world continue to influence modern artists such as Quentin Tarantino. Nicholas Gross, of Delaware University, argued that Stanley Kubrick's tortured visions of evil came from Ancient Rome. For example, in the gladiatorial contest in *Spartacus*, Kirk Douglas (playing a white Thracian) is fighting a black Ethiopian. Noble Roman matrons gloat avidly. Crassus, who has spent a fortune to stage the show, discusses politics in the background with his senatorial gofer.

But the story can also be read as a black American's political disempowerment, while Crassus's butchery of the black gladiator reveals his own dependence on his domination of the underclass. Other papers showed how space opera, that much maligned sub-genre of science fiction, closely follows old models. Asimov's decline and fall of the intergalactic empire is another ancient plot recycled.

Stand by your karaoke for Tammy rebirth

Philip Delves Broughton on the passing of 'a female Elvis'

SOMETIMES it's hard to be a Tammy Wynette impersonator. The sudden death of the 55-year-old First Lady of Country on Tuesday — from a blood clot as she napped on a sofa at home in Nashville, Tennessee — has left performers across the nation, from country revues to pub singers, even karaoke belters, bereft. Anyone, even the worst bathroom warbler, could get an emotional rise from singing *Stand By Your Man*. And just about anyone did.

In America, the rivals to fill Wynette's rhinestone boots are already lining up, from the 15-year-old LeAnn Rimes, whose *How Do I Live?* recently became the biggest-selling country single, to Reba McEntire, whose empire is run from a $10 million purpose-built office block in Nashville. Old favourites such as Loretta Lynn, Shania Twain and Crystal Gayle are also in the picture.

"Tammy Wynette was more than just a country and western singer in the West of Scotland," said Alex Fleming, President of the Grand Ole Opry, one of Britain's biggest country music clubs, which meets in Glasgow. "There is not a household which does not have at least one big Tammy Wynette fan. She was a star in her own right, beyond just country music. Most of our acts sing her songs." This weekend, as every weekend, Wynette's songs will be the most requested at the club. The pattern will be the same in country and western clubs across Britain, from the Fort San Antone, a truckers' favourite near Preston, Lancashire, to the Farmer's Tavern, in a caravan site in north Devon which hosts the annual British Association of Gunslingers competition.

"I'm still very sad about her death," Sonia Hudson, 26, from Durham, said. She twice sang as Wynette on the ITV programme *Stars in Their Eyes*. "She was my heroine. When she died she was getting bigger and bigger. They loved her in Germany and China."

Hudson, who now sings as herself, but still sings Wynette songs, has a signed picture of her heroine in her front room and posters on her bedroom walls. "Tammy was the country equivalent of Elvis."

The comparison to Presley extends to the likelihood of a huge posthumous trade in Wynette records and memorabilia. In Nashville, hundreds flocked to the Country Music Hall of Fame to pay tribute. When they found she had been omitted, there was a near-riot. A shrine is now promised.

Stand By Your Man was rereleased in America a week before Wynette died. Greatest hits albums are likely to follow. Not since Patsy Cline died 35 years ago has country music faced such a posthumous career.

Wynette became a hugely popular figure in gay clubs. *Stand By Your Man* became an unofficial gay anthem. It was not something of which the five-times married star particularly approved. "Tammy Wynette never sang in gay clubs," Alan Cackett, of *Country Music International* magazine, said. "Her song was taken over."

"She wasn't into women's rights either," John Emptidge, editor of *Country Music Round Up*, added. "People tried to make her out to be either a downtrodden woman or a feminist heroine. But she was not interested in labels. She just sang about her life." It was the life as much as the songs that ensured Wynette's enduring popularity. Dolly Parton may have written more songs, but her implausible figure made her something of a joke. Wynette, by contrast, was not just *the Queen of* Heartbreak. She wore glittering dresses, drove a car with 4,000 silver dollars embedded in the dashboard and made grown men cry.

"She was a complete original," Sonia Hudson said. "Others tried to be like her but she is still the one everyone wants to sing and hear." Tonight, the stetsons will be nodding in agreement.



Rhinestone country: Tammy Wynette







Who will step into the Queen of Country's rhinestone boots?

Reba McEntire, 43
Origins: Oklahoma country girl now the flashest woman in Nashville and the biggest-selling American female country star.
Show-stopper: *I Think His Name is John*, about a woman who has a one-night stand with a man whose name she cannot remember but who gave her Aids.
Concert style: draws on rock concerts, lots of lights and dramatics. Not for the country purist.

LeAnn Rimes, 15
Origins: poor Kentucky roots. Has already made a television film about her life and is now at work on her autobiography.
Showstopper: *How Do I Live?*, biggest-selling country single of all time. Also *Surrender* and *Blue*.
Concert style: Fearless vocalist. Yet to master the softly spoken links between songs. Bounces round the stage shouting instead, like the noisy teenager she is. The world's youngest self-made multimillionaire - last year she made $96 million.

Shania Twain, 32
Origins: Canadian Ojibway Indian. Her life is country song made real: both parents died in a car crash when Shania was 21, leaving her to bring up three brothers and sisters with money from singing in cabaret for five years before hitting the big time. Her second album sold 13 million copies.
Showstopper: *You're Still the One*, which she performed on the National Lottery draw programme.
Concert style: another one to bring rock concert styles to country. The raunchiest of the current crop. Her name in Ojibway means "I'm on my way".

Compiled by Phillip Delves Broughton

New classics put pressure on favourites

BY CAROL MIDGLEY AND GUY WALTERS

THE score for the epic film *Titanic*, as well as Sir Paul McCartney's symphonic work, *Standing Stone*, have broken through into the top 100 most popular classical tunes in Britain. John Tavener's *Song For Athene*, which brought the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, to a poignant close, has also entered the table in a development that points to the increasing popularisation of classical music.

Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor is the No 1 choice for the third year running in the national poll conducted by Classic FM.

Station executives disclosed there had been a failed attempt to rig the voting by a rogue e-mailer who tried to cast hundreds of different nominations for composers including Eric Coates and Percy Grainger.

A total of 100,000 votes were cast in the poll, by telephone, e-mail or coupon. Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 comes second for the third year running, while Mozart's Clarinet Concerto moves from fifth to third place.

However, it is the new "popular" entries that are seen as the most significant. Tavener's work is the highest new entry at No 53. James Horner's score for the multiple Oscar-winning *Titanic* surfaces at No 75. One place below is McCartney, whose symphonic work was first broadcast in Britain last November.

Football's influence is also evident in the chart. *Ode To Joy*, from Beethoven's choral symphony, is at No 17 this year. In 1996, when the music was the theme tune for the *Euro 96 tournament*, it gained enough votes to take it to No 5.

Raymond Gubbay, the concert promoter, said: "All that a list like this does is to tell you about the listeners at Classic FM. The top ten seems very non-operatic, and I would have expected *The Pearl Fishers* to have been a lot higher."

John Allison, the *Times* critic, said the top ten choices all great masterpieces. "On the whole, it's a respectable list, with the odd flavour of the month, such as the *Titanic* score.

"It's also refreshing to see that the Tavener hasn't been bumped up too much by the death of Diana."

Stanley Glasser, Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of London, said the list showed that "ordinary folk are being slowly educated".



Bruch: favourite again

CLASSIC FM HALL OF FAME 1998

1 Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1 in G Minor
2 Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor
3 Mozart: Clarinet Concerto
4 Beethoven: Symphony No 6 (The Pastoral)
5 Vaughan Williams: The Lark Ascending
6 Mahler: Symphony No 5 (Adagietto)
7 Saint-Saëns: Symphony No 3 (with organ)
8 Elgar: Enigma Variations
9 Elgar: Cello Concerto in E minor
10 Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat (The Emperor)

VIVALDI

11 Pachelbel: Canon in D
12 Barber: Adagio for Strings
13 Bizet: Pearl Fishers Duet (Au fond du temple saint)
14 Allegri: Miserere
15 Faure: Requiem
16 Mozart: Piano Concerto No 21 in C K467
17 (used in film Elvira Madigan) Beethoven: Symphony No 9 Choral (Ode to Joy)
18 Vivaldi: Four Seasons
19 Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor
20 Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana (Brindisi)

21 Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor
22 Holst: The Planets
23 Rodrigo: Guitar Concerto (Concierto de Aranjuez)
24 Albinoni: Adagio for Organ and Strings in G minor
25 Mozart: Requiem
26 Rimsky-Korsakov: Sheherazade
27 Dvorak: Symphony No 9 in E minor (New World)
28 J S Bach: Double Violin Concerto in D minor BWV 1043
29 Handel: Messiah
30 Sibelius: Finlandia

31 Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis
32 Verdi: Nabucco
33 Faure: Cantique de Jean Racine (Racine Canticle) Op 11
34 Beethoven: Symphony No 5
35 Prokofiev: Romeo and Juliet
36 Puccini: Madama Butterfly
37 Massenet: Meditation from Thais
38 Beethoven: Symphony No 7
39 Beethoven: Violin Concerto in D major
40 Orff: Carmina Burana

BEETHOVEN

41 Beethoven: Piano Sonata No 14 in C# minor Op 27 No 2
42 Tchaikovsky: Moonlight Symphony No 6 Pathétique
43 Puccini: La Bohème
44 Rachmaninov: Symphony No 2
45 Shostakovich: The Gadfly
46 Smetana: Ma Vlast
47 Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No 1
48 Delibes: Lakmé
49 J S Bach: Brandenburg Concertos
50 Verdi: Requiem

BACH

51 Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Op 43
52 Mozart: Marriage of Figaro
53 Tavener: Song for Athene
54 Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor
55 Chopin: Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor
56 Jenkins (Karl): Adiemus (Songs of Sanctuary)
57 Brahms: Violin Concerto in D major
58 Tchaikovsky: 1812 Overture Op 49
59 Handel: Solomon (Arrival of the Queen of Sheba)
60 Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor

61 Handel: Zadok the Priest
62 Beethoven: Romance No 2 in F Op 50
63 Gluck: Orfeo ed Euridice
64 Schubert: Piano Quintet in A (Trout)
65 Widor: Toccata from Organ Symphony No 5 in F minor
66 J S Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D minor
67 Mozart: Flute and Harp Concerto
68 Verdi: Aida
69 Chopin: Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor
70 Bruch: Scottish Fantasy

CHOPIN

71 Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture (Fingal's Cave)
72 Sibelius: Symphony No 2
73 Shostakovich: Piano Concerto No 2 in F
74 Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (Serenade No 13 in G)
75 Horner: Titanic (film soundtrack)
76 McCartney: Standing Stones incl. Human
77 Sibelius: Symphony No 5 in Eb
78 Saint-Saëns: Carnival of the Animals
79 Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D major
80 Ravel: Bolero

GILL ALLEN



John Tavener's *Song for Athene* is the highest new entry to the chart at No 53

THE SUNDAY TIMES

NAUGHTYGATE

Bill Clinton's affairs are far more tangled – and less certain – than they seemed. Separating lies from facts: a special investigation.
The Sunday Times Magazine tomorrow

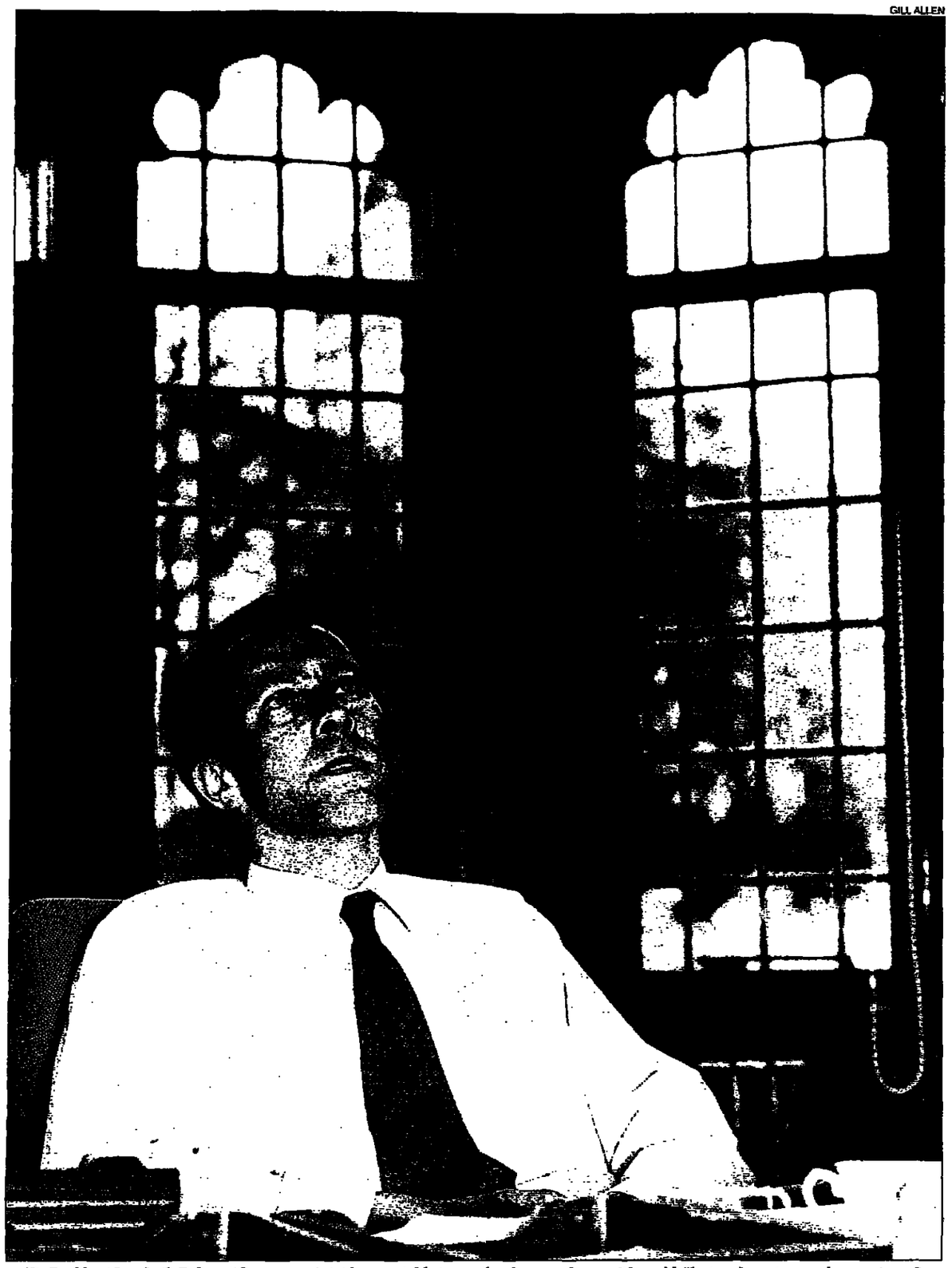
THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

هكذا من الأصل

نسخة طبق الأصل

VALERIE GROVE MEETS: **ANDREW PURKIS**

Diana 'tat' and the man with a fund of goodness



GILL ALLEN

Dr Purkis at Lambeth Palace: "One person's tat is acceptable to another in a good cause," he said, "but we have to exercise great care"

The man chosen to run the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund had to be beyond reproach: circumspect, upright, with a steady hand, a dedication to public service and perhaps just a whiff of sanctity. They seem to have found this paragon in Andrew Purkis.

You would have found him last night singing (tenor) in the choir in the Tenebrae service at St Michael's, Battersea, where he also sang on Thursday night and yesterday morning. To see Dr Purkis at work, you go through the Tudor gateway of Lambeth Palace, pass Cardinal Pole's fig tree, ascend a hushed staircase and sit beneath a portrait of Archbishop Cosmo Lang.



Dr Purkis has sat here for six years as the Archbishop of Canterbury's senior adviser and spin-doctor, accustomed to damping down media misinterpretation. In June, he will move into another Thames-side palace, County Hall, former headquarters of the GLC. The Japanese owners have lent the fund a suite of offices rent-free for 20 years (a generous gift worth something like £3 million).

He should be just in time to calm the furies already unleashed over Diana dolls, scratchcards and margarine. As A.N. Wilson asked: "Isn't the memorial fund in danger of adding cant to the 'tackiness' charge? Once you've allowed the 'money for charity' argument to justify the sale of tat, is there any depth which could not be plumbed?"

Dr Purkis replies: "There are depths which should not be plumbed, but people's tastes differ. The Princess herself was not interested only in the tastes of Radio 4 listeners. One person's tat is perfectly acceptable to another, in a good cause.

"But one doesn't want to get too carried away with controversies," he adds. "The vast bulk of the fund is given, and is about giving. Problems about scratchcards and margarine have to be put in perspective. Nevertheless, clearly it is an area where we have to exercise great care and judgment on a case-by-case basis."

He is the imperturbable type. Perhaps it worked in his favour that he never met the Princess. "She came to the palace with a leprosy mission, and I watched her, but I wasn't introduced to her myself." Not given to mawkish platitudes, he identifies the reaction to her death as "profound shock", and declares that the fund must become "a worthwhile, splendid part of our culture".

On the day of her death, Lambeth Palace was besieged by requests for the archbishop's views. "He was supposed to be on retreat in the North, but we managed to get him into a television studio in Manchester."

The misleading West-country burr (he pronounces the final "r" in Manchester) comes from 20 years of Cornish holidays: he is going there tomorrow to ride the surf. He was born 49 years ago in North London, the fourth child of an industrial chemist, director of research with North Thames Gas. One of his three elder sisters is Christine Purkis, author of novels for teenagers. At Highgate School — "the thing I liked most about school was the work" — he became head boy, "but I didn't like myself in the role of enforcing petty rules. The only thing I was tough on was silence in the library. I didn't think it mattered about wearing caps when they were already 6ft 5in. What was liberating was the work, which I really loved."

He won a scholarship to Corpus Christi, Oxford, where he sang in *The Rake's Progress*, played the fool in college revues and gained a First. Before doing his doctorate, he took a year off as a *Gastarbeiter* alongside Turks and Yugoslavs in a hellish-sounding glue factory in Munich. "It was pretty ghastly. Huge vats of stinking, thick, industrial glue, and so noisy I could sing *My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose* at the top of my voice. When one of the vats spilt, I was mobilised with brooms and petrol. I just sang and sang to get through the day. In the evening, I became a bourgeois student in search of opera and cultural life."

He renounced academe for the civil service fast-stream route "because they would take you on even if you didn't know much about anything except railway building in South Africa" (his doctoral thesis).

In the Northern Ireland Office, despite his pipsqueak status, he quickly rose in responsibility under Merlyn Rees. His predecessor as private secretary to the permanent under-secretary had been killed, along with Christopher Ewart-Biggs, Britain's Ambassador in Dublin, in 1976. The job meant flying back and forth between Northolt airport and the Stormont compound, with little time left for any kind of social life.

His record in the voluntary sector was probably instrumental in securing him the new job. As a former assistant director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations he created initiatives in community self-help groups such as Waste Watch, which promotes recycling. He was also director of the Council for the Protection for Rural England, under David Puttnam and then Jonathan Dimbleby. Despite his urban background, he is a country-lover who watches birds. Besides, the CPRE is a coalition of town and country, uniting shire colonels and idealistic urban students.

In search of some chink in his impeccably wholesome and worthy armour, I say in jest: "Tell me about your nightclub croupier wife." He laughs. "Well, no. She is a former nurse and social worker." They have two children, 17 and 15, and live in Balham. Jenny Purkis works part-time in a Wandsworth carers' centre, where people looking after disabled relatives, or parents of mentally handicapped adult children, can seek advice on benefits or respite care — that vast area of need for which the rest of us are thankful there are altruistic volunteers.

"What is really humbling," says Dr Purkis, "is the attitude of people who carry the most extraordinary burdens in their personal lives, caring for disabled relatives year after year, without complaint or bitterness."

The new job will give him a salary (£75,000) a third more handsome than the archbishop's stipend (£51,020.) He had already told the archbishop that "since I've only got one life, although I love working here for him, I did intend to keep my eyes open". When the job of Diana fund chief executive was advertised, for someone with "outstanding management skills and business acumen" he was shortlisted from 19 candidates. Anthony Julius, the Princess's solicitor, pronounces him a man of "vision and drive".

Life with the archbishop has given him a foretaste of working with someone whose very name can summon public goodwill. "Whenever he asks anybody to do something for him, or to come to Lambeth Palace, they say yes, and it matters so much to all types of people if the archbishop affirms them and takes an interest.

"He prefers to be open with the media, which works better than the Harold Wilson way of thinking the press is all agin you, so you kind of sulk in a defensive way."

He was in such accord with his boss that he was "allowed to play the wet-blanket role when necessary and say 'I don't think that will have the effect you want,' or 'I think such-and-such is a rotten idea.'" These skills in manipulation and diplomacy will be essential when dealing with over-emotional media obsessiveness about the Princess.

He has told the trustees, who include Sarah McCorquodale, the Princess's sister, that he will spend the first few months preparing a comprehensive vision statement, outlining exactly what the memorial fund is to be. It has already committed £13 million to appropriate causes.



The Princess: compassion

There could be plans to encourage people to bequeath legacies and "beautiful houses" for the use of her charities. "I hope the trustees will not decide that the memorial fund should be a firework, a tremendous show which then fizzles out. I think it should be a living memorial, which will continue in the long term. To blow all the money and then wind it up would be a pity.

"Above all, the fund must have enthusiasm for and commitment to the things the Princess stood for: human warmth and compassion for the weaker people at the margins of society.

"Someone said she shone light into some of the dark and sad places of life, and that is something the fund can continue to do in her name. They needed someone totally committed to that. Then they could accept all the cautious, rigorous judgments that might be necessary."

Caution, rigour, probity: these will be his watchwords. "Yes, it's a high profile fund, so one will have to be quite punctilious about anything that might cause a grubby fuss and might mar what should be a positive effort that rallies goodwill from all sections of society. We don't want to spoil that by having unnecessary controversies and rows."

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tonight 6.30 PUCCINI'S TRITTICO Wed 7.30 LA BOHEME

THEATRES

ADELPHI cc 24hrs (£1 bkg fee) 344 0055 Grps 413 3321/0800 614 903 "KILL FOR A TICKET" M.o.S. WINNER OUTSTANDING MUSICAL Olivier Awards '98 CHICAGO THE MUSICAL RUTHIE HENSHALL UTE LEMPER HENRY GOODMAN NIGEL PLANER Mon-Sat 8, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444 Eves 7.45 Mats Thu 3 & Sat 4 THE PETER HALL COMPANY Christopher Cazenove Kate O'Mara Simon Ward Richard Todd Madeleine Potter Barbara Murray OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY AN IDEAL HUSBAND 'GREAT AND GLORIOUS' S.Tms

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003 cc 344 4444 'Dame Judi is triumphant in Hare's masterpiece' D.Mail JUDI DENCH SAMANTHA BOND RONALD PICKUP JOYCE REDMAN The National Theatre Production of AMY'S VIEW a new play by DAVID HARE Directed by RICHARD EYRE Eves 7.30, Sat Mat 2.30

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6000 cc 0171 857 4001/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321 WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Steinman's new musical Opens July 1

THEATRES

APOLLO LABATTS Hammersmith BO(no bkg fee) 0870 606 3400 cc(+bkg fee) 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075 DOCTOR DOLITTLE THE MUSICAL EVENT Starring PHILLIP SCHOFIELD Book, music & lyrics by Leslie Bricusse Directed by Steven Pimlott WORLD PREMIERE 14 JULY

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070 cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454 BEN ELTON'S POPCORN Winner - Laurence Olivier Awards - Best comedy Winner - Barclays Theatre Awards - Best New Play 'nominated for 7 Molieres' Mon-Sat 8.00pm Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's STARLIGHT EXPRESS THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH Evenings 7.45pm Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6080 344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee) Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588 GREASE NOW IN ITS 5TH FANTASTIC YEAR! IAN KELSEY as Danny "A Monster Hit" D.Mirror Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm BOOKING TO THE MILLENNIUM

COMEDY THEATRE 369 1731 cc 0171 344 4444 'EDWARD FOX's Macmillan a tour de force' E.Std. 'CLARE HIGGINS excellent' F.T. In Hugh Whitemore's A LETTER OF RESIGNATION 'One of the most literate and powerful plays in the West End.' Time Out Mon-Sat Eves 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00, Sats 4.00 FINAL WEEK Transfers to the SAVOY from April 20 - 0171 836 8888

COMEDY 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 344 4444 THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND by Tom Stoppard BLACK COMEDY by Peter Shaffer Previews 16 April. Until 11 July Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444 3RD HILARIOUS YEAR THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes "Hilarious" Times "Go Now!" Sunday Times Mats Thur at 3, sat at 5 Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged) Tuesday at 8pm Now Booking until Summer '98

DOMINION 0171 656 1985/0171 344 4444/0171 434 5482/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6098/0171 420 0000/0171 494 5454 BEST NEW MUSICAL OLIVIER AWARDS 1998 DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST "AN ENCHANTING EVENING-GENUINELY GLORIOUS" D.Tel "A FEAST OF GOOD FUN" D.Mail New Group Rates-Now Booking Mon-Sat 7.30. Wed & Sat Mats 2.30

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 369 1732 THE BULLET a new play by Joe Penhall LAST 4 WEEKS Eves 8pm, Mats Thu & Sat 4pm

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 9TH BREATHTAKING YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.

DUCHESS BO 0171 494 5075 cc 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 MICHAEL WILLIAMS in John Aubrey's BRIEF LIVES 'An unforgettable evening' Daily Mail Adapted & directed by Patrick Garland Mon-Sat Evgs 8.00 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033/494 5588 NOW IN ITS 9th HIT YEAR ROBERT DE MEGER DAVID PULLAN Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail Mon-Sat 8 Mats Tue 3 & Sat 4 Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990/494 5588 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 Winner of 19 Major Awards The Royal National Theatre Production PIP MILLER ALISON FISKE JOHN BARDON JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "Thrilling...Must be seen" D.Mail "Two hours enthralling, visually stunning drama" D.Tel Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15 Mats Wed 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5065 cc 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454 JAME ASHER STEVEN PACEY SERENA EVANS THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE ALAN AYCKBOURN'S hit comedy 'Laugh out loud funny' D.Tel Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

HAYMARKET BO/cc 0171 930 8800 cc 344 4444 (bkg fee) DAME EDNA EVERAGE in NEW EDNA THE SPECTACLE! Laugh with a legend from Tuesday Eves 7.30 Sat Mat 3.00

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO MAY 98 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM 0171 494 5030/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454/413 3321 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Prevs 21 Apr. Opens 5 May

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 (+ fee) cc 344 4444 (+ fee) Frances Barber Lloyd Owen Neil Pearson Liza Walker CLOSER BY PATRICK MARBER BEST NEW PLAY Laurence Olivier Award '98 BEST COMEDY Evening Standard Award Mon-Sat 7.30pm Wed & Sat Mat 3pm Limited 12 week season

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 452 3000: Grps 0171 452 3010; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000. OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15 (FINAL PERFS) PETER PAN by JM Barrie In a new version by John Caird and Trevor Nunn. Mon - HAMLYN WEEK PERFORMANCE LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30. Mon 7.30 THE INVENTION OF LOVE a new play by Tom Stoppard. COTTESLOE Tom't, Mon 7.30 (PREVIEWS) OUR LADY OF SLIGO a new play by Sebastian Barry.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 13TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) BEST MUSICAL Olivier/Drama Awards Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D.Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 344 4444 Grps 369 1717 THE PETER HALL COMPANY THE MISANTHROPE "HILARIOUS" F.T. Today 3.00 & 7.45, Tue 2.30 & 7.45 NB. EXTRA MAT TUE 2.30

PLAYHOUSE WC2 0171 839 4401 0171 344 4444 (+Bkg fee) Until 18 April The Almeida Theatre Company THE JUDAS KISS A new play by David Hare Directed by Richard Eyre Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat Mat 2.30

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987 First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL "Hot from Broadway. Enough energy to electrify a city." D. Mail SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45 & 8.30. Sat 3pm & 8pm NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 1998

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 0171 420 0065 cc/24hrs 344 4444 Grps (12+) 0171 420 0069 Freephone Grps 0800 614903 SHOW BOAT "THE GREAT AMERICAN MUSICAL" New York Times FROM 20 APRIL Eves 7.30, Mats Thur & Sat 2.30

QUEENS 0171 494 5040/344 4444 420 0000 Grps (10+) 0171 494 5454 SAUCY JACK AND THE SPACE VIXENS THE NEW MUSICAL "Sparkling fun" Sunday Times "Pure unadulterated hedonism" The Independent Mon-Thu 8, Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sat 4pm & 8.30pm Friday 5.30 all seats two for one

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY STRATFORD 0541 541051 Today 1.30 RST.THE MERCHANT OF VENICE & 7.30 THE TEMPEST Today 1.30 SWAN: BARTHOLOMEW FAIR & 7.30 THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA Tom't 7.30 TOP:SHADOWS LONDON 0171 638 8891 Today 2.00 & 7.15 BARBICAN: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Today 5.00 & 8.00 PIT:THE UNEXPECTED MAN Today 2.00 & 7.15 YOUNG VIC:UNCLE VANYA

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 0171 420 0000/344 4444 From April 20 'EDWARD FOX's Macmillan a tour de force' E.std Hugh Whitemore's A LETTER OF RESIGNATION "One of the most literate and powerful plays in the West End" Time Out Mon-Sat Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed 3.00, Sats 4.00

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE Telephone bookings 07000 21 12 21/ 344 4444 (24hrs + bkg fee) http://www.sliceforrent.com RENT PREVIEWS 21 APR OPENS 12 MAY

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222 or fax: 0171 481 9313

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8. AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 46th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 495 5588 "BUDDY" The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun "BUDDY" "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30 SUNDAYS 4.00pm kids ½ Price ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 9th KNOCKOUT YEAR! Over 3,500 Performances Now booking 'till the year 2000

THE PLAYHOUSE 0171 369 4404 0171 839 4401 April 23 for 39 perfs only The Almeida Theatre Co 'A powerful play - an unmissable production' Ind NAKED 'Juliette Binoche's translucent beauty conceals a raging torrent of emotion' D.Mail Mon-Sat Eves 7.30pm Sat Mat 3.00pm

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE BO & cc 0171 836 9987 (No fee) cc 344 4444, 420 0000 (Bkg fee) "KAT & THE KINGS" 'CRAZY KAT WILL MAKE YOU PURR...A FINGER SNAPPING, FOOT TAPPING, HAND CLAPPING SMASH' Daily Mirror Mon - Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30 Fri Mats all seats ½ price

VICTORIA PALACE 0171 834 1317 Ticketmaster 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee) Previews 9 May. Opens 19 May 7pm Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat Mats 3.00 SWEET CHARITY 'THE SHOW STOPPING BIG SPENDER MUSICAL'

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444 BEST COMEDY Evg Standard Awards BEST COMEDY Laurence Olivier Awards 1997 "ART" ROGER ALLAM MICK FORD JACK DEE A new play by Yasmina Reza Trans by Christopher Hampton Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat & Sun 5

ENGLISH HAYDN FESTIVAL BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE 28th May – 7th June 1998 Artistic Advisor H C Robbins Landon

Artists include: Nancy Argenta • Catherine Bott • Willard White Ronald Brautigam • Anthony Halstead • Ivan Monighetti Crispian Steele-Perkins • The Revolutionary Drawing Room The English Haydn Orchestra (on period instruments)

Telephone 01746 766194 for free brochure/bookings/accommodation Leisurely Supper Intervals

Royal Festival Hall Queen Elizabeth Hall Purcell Room www.sbc.org.uk

10/11/13/14 Apr 7.00pm Queen Elizabeth Hall PALACE OPERA presents... Verdi's Falstaff "Brilliantly brought to life" Time Out "...fast moving and funny" Opera Now Verdi's first opera and comic masterpiece Fully staged Tickets £25-£10

Tue 14 Apr 7.30pm Royal Festival Hall Michael Nyman & John Lill English Sinfonia, Bramwell Tovey (cond) Prog inc Rachmaninov: Pno Conc No.2; Nyman: Strong on Opts. (prem); Arnold: English Dances £23.50 - £5.50

Wed 15 Apr 7.30pm Royal Festival Hall London Philharmonic Orchestra Paavo Järvi (cond) Frank Peter Zimmermann (vln) Beethoven: Overture, Fidelio; Mozart: Violin Conc K218; Mahler: Sym No.1 6.15pm Pre-concert talk £32 - £5

Thu 16 Apr 7.30pm Royal Festival Hall Philharmonia Orchestra M Pletnev (cond) V Tretiakov (violin) Tchaikovsky: Voyevoda; Violin Concerto; Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique 6pm Pre-concert talk £30 - £5

17 & 24 Apr 7.30pm Royal Festival Hall London Philharmonic Orchestra P Järvi (cond) A Gerhardt (cello) Berlioz: Ov. Le Corsaire; Tchaikovsky: Vars on a Rococo Theme; Brahms: Sym No.1 £15 - £5

17 & 18 Apr 7.45pm Queen Elizabeth Hall Turnage: Greek, London Sinfonietta D Masson (cond) C Vasables (director) C Murphy (designer) A modern adaptation of the Oedipus myth £25 - £10 (Cons £9, £5)

Sun 19 Apr 7.30pm Purcell Room The Quatraine Ensemble Debussy: Premiere Rhapsodie; Arnold: Sonatina, Op 29; Brahms: Sonata in F minor; Beethoven: Trio in B flat £10- (£7 Cons)

Box Office 0171 960 4242 Mon to Sun 9.30am-9pm Tel booking handling charge 50p per transaction sbc

Hobgoblins on the hearth

Family life is bruising, it is a wonder that most children manage to survive it at all

Simon Jenkins

Easter is the most popular season for weddings. Each year, the ripening buds of spring join forces with the new tax year to send thousands of young people into life's most testing battle. Hope hurls itself again onto the bruised breast of experience.

In future, the battle rations should include a tape of Monday's Channel 4 documentary, *Keeping it in the Family*, by Roger Graef. I used to think fly-on-the-wall films were mere amateur dramatics. The presence of cameras and the editing process could only distort. What could be filmed obscured what was real. The camera could never draw back from the image to reveal the thought.

I did not think that on Monday night. *Keeping it in the Family* was a documentary about an 11-year-old Wiltshire boy named James. His parents Stewart and Sonia were separated and remarried. Both were unemployed and alcoholic. The child was bright but disturbed, hyperactive and given to rages in which he trashed everything in sight. The father fought the mother for ten years for custody, won it but could not handle the boy, and could not stop hitting him. The mother took him back but could not handle him either. Social workers considered putting James into care.

The characters were desperate in every sense. Drinking, swearing, bearded, pigtailed, covered in tattoos, they did no work and lived high on the hog of the State. Lacking the diversion and self-esteem of a job, they endured the claustrophobia of nuclear families in council houses, and took it out on each other and their children. They were what middle-class viewers would call "awful people".

The cameras filmed an attempt by the charity, Barnardo's, to get James's extended family together to seek a path for him through their various quarrels, as an alternative to putting him into care. The technique was high-risk. It meant bringing two fractured parties together on neutral territory, and expecting them to sort out their own problems as well as plan James's future — all while James played the fool in their midst.

At first sight the cause was hopeless. The miserable father, Stewart, admitted that he could not restrain himself from hitting his son, who showed his bruises on camera. The boy's behaviour was so bad he could not stay at school. Nobody could manage him. Endearing and articulate though he was, he needed leg-irons and a straitjacket. He was an accident waiting to happen.

The causes of crime are no mystery: one third of imprisoned young offenders spent some time in care. Crime begins with parents who should not have met and children who should not have been born, with love denied, attention scorned, warnings ignored and punishments that merely exacerbate the crime. To this the conservative offers an irrelevant prospectus. Teach these people right from wrong, he cries. Make family break-up harder. Hold parents "responsible" for truancy, crime, drug-taking and curfews. Fine them, says Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. Family values must be inculcated, and if not inculcated then imposed by law. Social workers, psychologists and counsellors are the fancy-goods merchants of progressivism. They are fog, obscuring the shining path leading to the bliss that is the nuclear family.

I would like to see Mr Straw preaching family values to James's relatives. They were beyond values. They were wrestling with an uncontrollable child. It was too late to wonder if he should have been born. Keeping his nuclear family together would have risked life and limb. Punishment was senseless. These were participants not in a tussle between good and evil but in a mess. What was remarkable was that, the more they argued, the less they played fault against fault and the more they attended to the mess.

These people may not look or talk like most *Times* readers. Yet they plainly loved the boy and saw putting him into care as a failure on their part. They showed what I call responsibility. The father was terrified of his violence and pleaded for counselling. All of them cared about James's grades at school and wanted the best for him. They were not cruel or immoral people, merely untrained, unhelped and incompetent.

Their efforts did not succeed. The relatives managed to agree that James would go back to his mother. But he then tore his mother's family apart and defeat was admitted. He went into care in a foster home and, I understand, is now in a state boarding school in Wiltshire. However, he is reportedly well — behaved and happy. He is no longer at risk from his father. His parents' new families are not being destroyed. Help that, in times past, would have come from a local community must now come from the State. But help has come. The extended family is regrouping, like a regiment forced to retreat but refusing to disband. It wants to keep in touch with the boy, to offer him a better home later.

I cannot think of any cliché of "family values", let alone family policy, relevant to this saga. Tolstoy was wrong. Unhappy families may be unhappy in their own way, but they have a frightening amount in common. Perhaps heavens should be moved to dissuade such people from having children. (I bet both Church and State showered blessings and subsidies to urge Stewart and Sonia into their original union.) What went wrong was not an absence of values or policy. It was that two people found they could not live together or offer security to a child.

I know plenty of parents who do not look or live like these people, yet who share their predicament. They too find a nuclear family hard to sustain. They relieve its pressure by divorce. They ask third parties, relatives or nannies, to act as proxies for their own affection and discipline. Fathers spend little time with sons. Non-working mothers retreat into homes cut off from neighbourly villages or streets, and wonder that they are lonely and unstimulating to their children. I know parents who, like James's, regard boarding school as a respite from the strain of parenthood.

Imposing guilt on those who "re-engineer" their families in this way serves no purpose. The nuclear family is a 20th-century concept. Every Dickens novel involves a family "dysfunctional" in some respect. The much-studied citizens of the medieval village of Montaillou treated family and village as synonymous. What is remarkable is that most children, whose development surely demands an extended society, contrive to survive nuclear families at all.

Being a parent is the toughest job most people attempt. A previous Graef film showed a group of parents trying to handle seriously "hyperactive" children, first at home, then at a special class. Many parents were intelligent and middle-class, yet they made mistake after mistake. It was like watching someone perform a brain operation or fly a jet without any instruction. We demand that midwives be licensed. We have laws to regulate the nurture of farm animals, the care of the sick or teaching in schools. But bring a child into the world and you are on your own, whether you be harbouring a saint or a serial killer.

Like James's father and mother, you may love your child and ache to be seen as a responsible parent, yet when you foul it up, all the hobgoblins of politics and religion descend on you and call you evil. These people are no help. They can resort to preaching, but they never tell you what to do when you are at your wits' end. But then they, like you, are in this matter still living in the Dark Ages covered in woad.



Hail warriors of peace

John Major celebrates a bravely won accord that will unleash the talents of the Irish people

Let there be no carping. It is a wonderful achievement to have reached an agreement in the Northern Ireland talks.

I offer my warmest congratulations to the Prime Minister, to the Secretary of State, the Irish Prime Minister, the party leaders, and also to the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein, who had the toughest choices to make. Be in no doubt — it took real courage for the participants in these talks to reach an agreement.

There are countless unknown figures who have played an important part in constructing the mosaic of peace, and if the names of three outstanding civil servants — Stephen Wall, Rod Lyne and John Holmes — appear for once in print, then so much the better. They know how many of their colleagues in Belfast and Dublin also worked so hard and so long for this outcome.

There are many memories. Tom King asking Brian Mawhinney to explore talks ten years ago. Later, sitting alone, in Downing Street on my first day as Prime Minister, and writing a shortlist of objectives, with Northern Ireland at its head. The evening that the message arrived at No 10 from the IRA: "We need your [British] help to bring the conflict to an end." Dusk outside, and hope inside.

There were setbacks too, time and time again; and perhaps most dramatically the ending of the ceasefire, and the horror of the atrocities at Warrington and Greysteel. Often it looked hopeless, with entrenched differences seeming to be unbridgeable. But, in truth, it never was hopeless, although doggedness and patience were needed as frequently as inventiveness and optimism.

I remember early meetings with the then Irish Prime Minister, Charles Haughey, when we agreed to meet bilaterally on a regular basis, which was a wholly novel concept.

Albert Reynolds, his successor, engaging and outrageous in turn, but always fun, with whom a pact was formed to seek a deal we both believed could be done. Out of this was to spring the "Downing Street declaration", which isolated the men of violence and put in place a coalition for peace.

John Bruton, his polar opposite in many ways, was equally fun, and fiercely committed. I had sharp meetings with both of them, but relations never suffered more than a temporary setback. With John Bruton, the framework document was agreed and it set out, for the first time, what a settlement might look like that would be acceptable to both Governments. This document opened the way for the all-party talks that have now reached such a successful conclusion.

Peter Brooke did so much spadework; and Paddy Mayhew was a rock. Always there, always dependable, inventive, dry-witted, and caustic; but never letting personal frustrations upset his determination to succeed. He was lucky, too, in Jean Mayhew, who was like a second Secretary of State, so hard did she work in the community. Michael Ancram also had a tremendous "feel" for how to heal the bruises of the past.

The list of builders goes on. Bringing in George Mitchell nearly four years ago. The church leaders, Archbishop Robin Eames and Cardinal Cahal Daly. There was wise and canny Jim Molyneaux and John Hume, whose capacity to produce new propositions never flagged when the old ones fell. So many names, and many more missed than I have mentioned.

There is a risk that some fringe groups will still seek to use terror

But they will not mind, because for all of them it is the outcome that matters.

Clearly, there are still hurdles to overcome. The deal reached by the politicians must be accepted by the Northern Ireland community, where the details may often be unpalatable. The referendum must be won — hopefully by a massive margin.

The legislation has yet to be framed and passed in Westminster and Dublin. The promises made must be honoured. There is a risk — sadly a probability — that some fringe groups may still seek to use terror and mayhem to disrupt the process. Some of those engaged in terrorist activities use it to make a life of criminality under the guise of political aims, and their livelihood is at stake. Massive progress has been made, but much remains to be done, and some will still seek to obstruct it.

The people of Northern Ireland have much to gain. A life without the grisly reality of daily violence, without roadblocks and searches, and without a daily fear for their families and especially their children. The opportunity now exists for a life in which the inherited hatred of generations can be cast aside and the disputes between Catholic and Protestant, Unionist and nationalist, can be consigned to history.

There are more material prospects too. The settlement, if implemented — and perhaps even before it is implemented — will lead to a massive growth in investment in Northern Ireland (and the Republic) on a scale never seen before, but foreshadowed in the ceasefire of two years ago.

The impact of all this upon practical improvements to the lifestyle of Northern Ireland will be enormous; it will remove grievances and hardship; and there will be jobs in deprived areas (mainly Catholic) where before there were none; a vast improvement in the range and quality of opportunity; huge savings over time (but cautiously, please) on security.

I do not underestimate the problems that lie ahead. They are substantial. Difficult decisions on security, policing, removing weapons, and prisoners in detention will all cause controversy, and in some cases bitterness, as they are finalised and implemented. There will be time enough to reflect on these in the days ahead.

But none of these problems — all of them inevitable and all of them foreseen — can detract from the advances made. The British and Irish Governments are agreed, and eventually and with difficulty, the political parties are agreed, save only the Democratic Unionist Party.

Even in the bleakest moments I always believed it could be done and that the politics of reason would prevail in the end. It now looks as though they might have. A Labour Prime Minister and his Irish counterpart have now orchestrated the agreement. I don't care about their political labels. I just care that they have done it and I want their achievement to thrive.

The Irish people are gifted and joyous. The grim face of terrorism has never been the true face of Ireland. A settlement can unleash all the talents of a people rooted too long in the disputes of their forebears. The present generation may enjoy a future of a sort that was only a dream to their parents.

There is now real cause for hope. Irish history records the Easter Uprising. Let us hope that this Easter records the Irish Settlement.

An eerie flight of faith

Easter makes life bearable, says **Nick Cave**

It is Easter: the time we remember Jesus Christ and his eerie, enigmatic final days. And there are those of us who find at this time that our feelings of confusion and ambivalence towards Christ's Crucifixion and subsequent Resurrection are intensified. It is a disturbing time of year.

I ring a dear friend I. M. Birtwistle, a poet, gallery owner and Roman Catholic, for help and she tells me of Easter and the Passion: "Well, it makes death bearable, dear boy." And I am so struck by the conviction in her voice that I feel pallid and weak with my slippery, etiolated faith.

She speaks of the Resurrection and "the Kingdom that awaits us all" and after wishing her a happy Easter I hang up cursing the part of me that refuses to take that final leap, that leaves me with my ear pressed to the wall of a place where I hear beautiful music but can't find the door that will bid me entrance.

The Passion is the conclusion to a tale that has intrigued me for most of my life. That awesome figure of Christ, whose words of compassion, of venom, of love, of anger, have whispered and howled to me all down my days, has informed my songwriting, calling to my imagination, not just in the jewel-like brilliance of his words, but in the flight of inspiration that was his life. He illuminated the world with his rag-tag ministry, and all the business of his betrayal, his bogus trial and his criminal's death. It is through Christ's life that I have found a focus for my own: in its essential humanness, its mystery, the sadness of it, his hurt for mankind, as He moved towards his inevitable death.

But of course Easter is a celebration of the Resurrection, of that which "makes death bearable". It is a celebration of the promise of a hereafter. And this is where I am left out in the cold. Do we need the Resurrection? Perhaps Christ's extraordinary journey is sufficient justification of life's worth, without the need for all the positive energy to be poured into a concept of the hereafter. Surely this denies us the glory of our existence, demeaning the Kingdom which is here and now?

The Jesus of the Gospels has mythologised life and mystified it. He is a glorious metaphor for our own heroic journey. A man, through virtue of His clarity of vision, propelled Himself and those He touched beyond the mundanity of a life that denies the spark of the divine, of inspiration, of imagination. Christ came in light, to release us from all that would bind us to the ground, in order that we take flight. That Christ moved so indefatigably towards his death, blazing a trail of brilliance as He went, yet was so haunted by its approach — as we ourselves are shaped by the approach of our own deaths — only serves to make his own life all the more meaningful. Our lives *are* meaningful. Death does not negate them. That we die only serves to enlighten our own existences.

For me, the Passion is not so much what makes death bearable, but what makes life bearable.

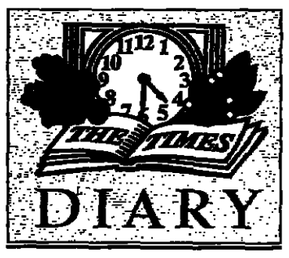
Nick Cave is a singer, songwriter and author.

Wreck role

CHRIS SMITH is to hire a scuba diver to uncover shipwrecks laden with riches, lying forgotten on the seabed off the British coast. The salty old seadog masquerading as Culture Secretary is to appoint Stuart Bryan, who is to become the Nautical Archaeology Co-ordinator and will join a new Advisory Committee on Historic Wreck Sites. The committee will approve licences to excavate ghostly shipwrecks in the search for a forgotten *Titanic*. Three Roman vessels, said to be submerged under the Thames Estuary for 2,000 years, have excited Smith's interest. The hard-working minister is even considering donning a wetsuit and inspecting the valuable cargo himself. "Mr Bryan is a respected and enthusiastic member of the diving community and an active member of the Sub-Aqua Association," Smith tells me. "Sport-divers play a key role in the protection of historic wreck sites around our coast."

"These Roman ships are time capsules," says Bryan. "We begin searching in September. It has been suggested that Chris Smith might take a dive although, as an instructor, I must say he will have to meet the physical requirements." A keen conservationist, Bryan does not see himself as a plunderer: "My job is to communicate the value of the objects." Smith will then have to decide whether the wrecks should be salvaged. But if Smith hopes to fill the department's coffers with Roman gold, Bryan fears he might be disappointed. "The boats might just be full of olives."





JASPER GERARD

● *AWAY from the cameras, the early architects of the Irish peace deal will meet this weekend: John Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew. "They will crack open champagne," says a source. "They are hugely relieved and looking forward to toasting the new agreement."*

Ronay's recce

THAT old sausage-muncher Egon Ronay has been prowling the Commons to test the quality of MPs' nosh. Attempts by Labour to "northernise" cuisine (black pudding, burnt rissoles, you know the fayre) have not gone down well with the gourmet. But then Ronay has not gone down well with MPs. They were left to nurse rumbling tummies when the head chef at the Churchill Grill closed the kitchen. After an hour's wait, the room — packed with hungry diners — including Ken Clarke, discovered that Ronay was to blame. "The chef is preparing a special meal and wine-tasting for Egon," said a waiter. "Everyone must wait." But Ronay was not impressed when he saw a dodgy potato on the plate of Barry Sheerman, MP. "I don't suppose you are having these," said the MP. "No," replied Ronay. "I will come back disguised as an MP."

Black widow

MADELEINE WICKHAM, a *Zeitgeist* novelist par excellence (you know the type: thin plot plus an obsession with death and sex), has been invading people's privacy — and grief — to research her latest tome. She has been turning up uninvited to strangers' funerals pos-



ing as a young widow. This macabre pastime has culminated in *The Gatecrasher*, about a young sexy woman who cruises gravesides to prey on rich men to seduce and exploit. As Ms Wickham (pictured) is also young, sexy and exploitative, her imaginative powers could not have been tested too much.

● *SPORTSWOMEN may have left the Winter Olympics with more than happy memories. A Japanese condom-maker, who handed out samples, is recalling seven million because many have proven defective. "It is Japan's first condom recall," says a health spokesman.*

Choral crisis

HARVEY GOLDSMITH has fallen foul of Equity over plans to use singers drawn from the public in his mammoth production of *Aida*. The actors' union told its members his quest "to save money" should be opposed. "It is deplorable," it huffs. "Rubbish," says Goldsmith. "Equity did not object initially. Would it have me dispense with an excellent choir and replace it with a cobbled-together one?"

● *THE Archbishop of York's call for a searching review of the links between Church and State rather split the defence of the General Synod. When he called on Thursday to warn them that he was feeling radical, he was greeted by a message: "Closed for Easter."*



THE Queen is really getting the hang of "Cool Britannia". After Tony Blair's high-profile Downing Street drinks parties, which backfired rather when some freeloading blighters later took potshots at him, HM has decided to hold a bash for creative folk at Windsor Castle. Nearly 700 arty types, from the world of architecture (modern, not traditional), theatre, film, music, literature and opera are invited to a reception this month. Oblivious to Blair's woes, the Palace wants the bash to "recognise the artistic community's contribution to the nation". Helena Bonham Carter, Michael Caine, Sebastian Faulks, Dawn French and Sir Tom Stoppard are among the luminaries who have agreed to swig in the castle's newly renovated St George's Hall. But those rebellious types in the rock world have been typically rude. "Representatives from the popular music world have been invited," says my man at the Palace. "They have not yet responded." Among them, I hear, the yobby Oasis. Bad behaviour. No knighthoods, me fears, for the boorish Gallagher brothers.

هكذا من الأصل

AN EASTER PEACE

Compromise takes root in Ulster's narrow ground

After the longest of Good Fridays has come the best of news. After negotiations which exhausted, but which would not have worked unless they were exhaustive, has come an agreement. After thirty years of tribulation the suffering may cease. This Easter, the congregations who have prayed for peace beneath the steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone have seen compromise take root in Ulster's narrow ground. It will require careful nurturing and support if it is not to be trodden underfoot by militants. But the integrity of the quarrel between Unionist and nationalist of which Winston Churchill spoke in 1922 may, at last, have been resolved. Two hundred years after Irishmen united in rebellion they may, at last, be brought together in honest reconciliation.

The agreement in Ulster is the work of many hands, some stained by past misdeeds, but all now clasped in hope. It is too soon, perhaps, to fashion laurels from the olive branches of peace but Tony Blair has shown himself as skilled a statesman as he is a party leader. This week he has used both silk and steel to bring disputants together. D.G. Boyce, the distinguished historian of Ireland's troubles, has said before that the Irish Question can be answered only by London's politicians. Mr Blair, in partnership with the Taioseach, Bertie Ahern, has used all the authority of his office to bring a settlement and in so doing to work towards a secure future for the United Kingdom.

All those of Northern Ireland's politicians who have assented to this settlement have taken risks, and many must show great bravery if it is to stick. The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, in particular, has shown rare vision. Every step towards a settlement was haunted by the memory of the men who had stumbled before. Terence O'Neill and Brian Faulkner had led Unionism from the front but travelled too far from their people. By honestly reflecting his constituents' fears, while also educating them in the changing realities of a new political environment, Mr Trimble has made a more durable and more modern Union possible.

The last-minute alarums which delayed but did not derail agreement may have irritated, but Mr Trimble had to safeguard the principles on which a lasting and honourable peace must be built. All who participate in a new Northern Ireland assembly must demonstrate an unambiguous commitment to democracy. The decommissioning of weapons is a precondition which must be adhered to before parties can work together. It has been waived during negotiations in order to ensure that no movement can feel victimised, but now the path is clear for the paramilitaries. Abandoning the Armalite will allow them to wield the levers of power. Their electorate's voice can be properly heard only when the guns are, for ever, silenced.

Nationalist Ireland will also have to accept the decommissioning of old symbols, but it stands to gain much of substance. With the agreement enshrining the principle of consent in the Constitution of the Irish Republic, the point is conceded that Ulster's future is firmly within the United Kingdom for as long as its citizens wish. But now nationalists within Northern Ireland have the chance to play their full, and equal, part in the administration of the Province. The structure of a future assembly guarantees that majorities can never grow arrogant, while also ensuring that the assent of a majority is required for the effective operation of new North-South institutions. The space has been cleared for the genuine co-operation between Belfast and Dublin which can benefit all the island's citizens without needing to threaten the identity of any.

This Easter agreement will not bring peace within days. Indeed, it may be accompanied at first by an upsurge of violence from those groups on the fringes determined never to compromise. If, however, the republican leadership can show the courage to say the struggle has ended and if, above all, this agreement is seen as a settlement and not a staging-post, then there is hope. Future Easters may then be celebrated in all the Province's churches with signs of peace across old barriers, bells which no longer toll mournfully and hearts that can sing joyfully.

STANDARDS OF TRUTH

Scientists do not believe Iraqi lies and nor should diplomats

UN weapons inspectors have been back at work in Iraq for only a few weeks. It is too soon to judge whether last February's deal between the Iraqi Government and Kofi Annan has enabled Unscom's experts to resume their vital work free of Iraqi obstruction, or whether Iraq will succeed in placing its teams under unworkable political constraints. The first inspection of the eight "presidential sites" was inevitably a formality; Iraq had had weeks in which to remove all documents and suspect equipment. The palaces had even been stripped of furniture.

But this was a sideshow. More relevant to the task at hand was last month's statement by Richard Butler, the head of Unscom, that he had made "great progress" in talks with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Premier, and found "a new spirit of co-operation". But Iraq continues to try to hobble Unscom; and the new spirit does not seem to have operated during the latest technical evaluation of Iraq's biological weapons programme by a team of independent experts in Vienna.

This independent review was undertaken at the request of Iraq, which clearly hoped that it would be more positive than Unscom about Iraq's compliance with its obligation to eliminate its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons capability. For more than a week, Iraqi officials discussed Iraq's latest "full, final and complete disclosure" of its biological weapons programme with experts from 15 countries. Only three Unscom members were present.

The resulting report is damning. It speaks of "falsified or altered papers, accounts and material", of "incomplete and inadequate" disclosures, of "inconsistencies and gaps in information" and "implausible" and "absurd" accounting for such deadly materials as botulinum, anthrax and aflatoxin. It concludes that Iraq is probably still hiding weapons, stocks, large quantities of growth media for cultivating deadly bacteria and bombs designed to deliver lethal agents.

The experts' criticisms cover not only the disclosure document produced last September but the attitude of the Iraqi officials at the meeting itself. The delegation, it says, "did not grasp the opportunity offered" to provide the information sought. Its attitude showed "no change since 1995", a period when, Iraq later admitted, it was doing everything to hide its biological weapons programme. So much for the new spirit of co-operation. A convincing Iraqi account of purchases, stocks and capabilities is as important as the UN's unfettered access to sites in Iraq. The next six-monthly assessment of Iraq's compliance is due within days. This report, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency's negative assessment on Iraq's nuclear programme, should put any further easing of UN sanctions out of the question.

Those whose concerns are not commercial advantage but humanitarian need should also note that Iraq's Government shares that proper concern so little that it is trying to sabotage the conference Britain is convening to help Iraq to sell more oil for food. These reports are encouraging evidence that last February's deal has in no way diminished the determination of scientific experts not to be fobbed off with Iraqi evasions. Diplomats prepared to tolerate a fudge have been set standards of truth that they must respect.

BURSTING BANKS HOLIDAY

The Great British Disaster breaks all records

As any meteorologist will forecast, the collision of two fronts usually results in a deluge. And all Britain has suffered the consequences this holiday weekend. One unstoppable front, advancing steadily along the M40 in a band across the Midlands, was the unusually dense mass of cars generated by that seasonal phenomenon, Bank Holiday. The other front was the spirit of Dunkirk, normally not seen in Britain except during freak conditions, which can rapidly precipitate memories of the Blitz and flasks of warm tea whenever it meets natural or even self-induced adversity. The resulting thunderclaps can be heard all over television and leave newspapers streaked with columns of grainy pictures, heartbreaking clichés and touching stories of dogs, cats and grannies being rescued from inundation.

No Bank Holiday is complete without the word "chaos" appended to its description. Normally tests of endurance are inflicted by vicious outside forces: striking Spanish air controllers, French lorry drivers blockading the Channel ports or Brussels bureaucrats banning the Great British Holiday Breakfast. Such spoilsports seem intent on wrecking the ancient family custom of packing babies, biscuits and bickering into Ford Fiesta and enjoying the lorry fumes on the M25 and reminiscences of horror jams of the past from others on the hard shoulder. The week at Magaluf would hardly seem merited if it was not preceded by taped messages every three hours at Gatwick promising a new take-off time.

Britons are natural passengers on the *Titanic*, comforting each other with tales of disaster as the countryside disappears under water. All last week the weathermen, with just a touch of gloating, were predicting sleet, snow, hail and storms. But Middle England did not listen. Middle England knows that tornados happen only in disaster movies. But now disaster has fallen on Middle England, and no scenario is too awful to contemplate. Riverbanks are bursting, bridges buckling, rescue helicopters whirring aloft. Even mobile phone systems have been swamped as car after car gleefully flashes out the bad news.

Motoring organisations, rescue workers and the hapless housewife can give satisfying vent to their plight: "It was a journey from hell. I've never seen anything like it." Even the unlucky ones who stay dry at home can thrill to the shots of water pouring into others' sitting rooms. Satisfyingly, officials have proclaimed that in many places it has been the worst flood this century. And for years to come the hardy can relate how they survived the famous Easter of 1998.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Cost to industry of high interest rates

From Mr Michael Fabricant, MP for Lichfield (Conservative)

Sir, So Eddie George has managed to prevent an interest rate rise for another month (report, Business, April 10). He is to be congratulated in his impossible position. Both the Bank and the Government recognise that the high value of the pound is crippling manufacturing industry. Yet when questioned on the matter, the Prime Minister and Chancellor proclaim their innocence and their inability to intervene. In the Commons on Wednesday (Political Sketch, April 9), John Prescott tried to make light of it.

Labour are right to claim they are powerless in this. During the election campaign they promised not to increase income taxes during the course of the Parliament — and who can blame them? Labour do not enjoy a good reputation on that front. But by making that commitment, they painted themselves into an economic corner. Once in Government, Labour then took an early and blatant political decision which compounded their fix and has proved near-fatal for exporters.

The Chancellor gave quasi-independence to the Bank of England: a halfway house which he hoped would deflect blame for interest rate rises away from the Treasury. This was a decision he will live to regret. For unlike the US Federal Reserve, which has full independence and can set its own strategic inflation targets for the long-term benefit of the US economy, the Government has set the Bank of England the rigid target of a 2.5 per cent inflation rate, at a time when continental European and US rates are drifting slightly upwards. What choice did Eddie George have but to show caution and raise interest rates five times since the election?

The Chancellor should have either retained the powers enjoyed by his predecessor, Ken Clarke, or allowed the Bank total independence. Instead, interest rates are set too high and are likely to rise again. Combined with the perceived weakness of the euro-currencies and our economy's tendency to be more in phase with that of the US, the pound is likely to shackle exporters still further in the months to come.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FABRICANT,
House of Commons.
April 10.

From Mr Michael J. Forbes

Sir, It is clear that the Bank of England will continue to use high interest rates to prevent the economy overheating. However, since such measures are indirect, there is an inevitable delay in achieving the reduction in consumer spending. In the meantime, irreparable damage will be done to certain parts of our manufacturing sector.

A more direct and selective method of controlling consumer spending would result from the Treasury increasing VAT rates for a limited period. In reality, VAT is a tax on consumption.

While the Government stated at the time of the election that they had no intention of raising taxes, they will not be the first administration to undertake a U-turn, no doubt blaming the previous Government.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. FORBES,
63 Hough Green, Chester CH4 8JW.
April 10.

Jonesboro tragedy

From Mr John Hopewell

Sir, Mr Tim Bone (letter, April 6) deserves our strongest support in his appeal for a better understanding of the causes of the tragedy in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

I thought his argument became a little clouded in its reference to the culture of oppression and heterosexual male domination, but his conclusion is absolutely right: our society has devised no way of propagating a code of personal conduct to take the place of Church, family and school, which for various reasons are less and less effective in this role.

His letter draws attention to a neglected subject, but one which deserves society's first consideration.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOPEWELL,
The Vicarage, Langrish,
Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 1QY.
xwm53@dial.pipex.com
April 6.

Life's little burdens

From Dr C. Whetton

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford may be concerned about "telephone neck" (article, April 2) and Mrs Sandra Chittick (letter, April 7) may be suffering from "handbag hunch", but I was recently diagnosed as suffering from "laptop shoulder".

This condition is apparently caused by carrying: a notebook computer, mobile phone, tape recorder, camera, spare batteries, tapes, film and diskettes for the above — along with a large flask of malt whisky and a bottle of Codeine.

Yours faithfully,
CRIS WHETTON,
Satakunnankatu 40B18,
33210 Tampere, Finland.
cris.whetton@vtt.fi
April 7.

Television's 'dynamic' digital future

From Mr David Graham

Sir, Raymond Snoddy reports (April 7) on Mr Rupert Murdoch's speech to the European Audiovisual Conference on the "unhealthy concentration" of power that he perceives in state broadcasting.

As we enter a world of many channels, I believe we should be less concerned about broadcaster concentration and more concerned about creative concentration.

What will matter most is that channels are managed in a way likely to create the best content. That in turn suggests that our regulators should shift their attention to issues like competition, diversity of supply, and ease of entry for the makers of content.

In the UK, in 1996, nearly 44 per cent of the audiences for new terrestrial network programmes were for programmes made by one producer: BBC Television. Granada came next at 11 per cent (15 per cent if subsequent acquisitions are included). I am currently looking at the figures for 1997, but I do not expect very much change. This is a level of creative concentration unprecedented anywhere else in the world.

It would be surprising if the conditions that produce the best results in other fields do not apply equally to the production of television programmes. If we want our entertainment industries to be dynamic, exporting industries, our programmes need to be as good as we can possibly make them. And that will mean reaping the full benefits of competition.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GRAHAM,
David Graham & Associates Limited,
33-39 Bridge Street,
Taunton, Somerset TA1 1TP.
April 7.

From Mr Horace Mitchell

Sir, Many will agree with Mr John Birt's appeal for continued protection of public service broadcasting in the digital age (report, April 6). But let's hope that his plans for the BBC's ventures into digital services are not based on his erroneous assertion that "The cost of watching a screen will rise enormously".

As it goes digital, television, like telephony, is about to encounter price-performance trends and competition that have long been familiar in the computer industry. The Internet and the World Wide Web provide the first illustrations of what can happen: for a very small cost and with no specialist equipment, I can already "broadcast" video and sound from a conference anywhere in the world, and my broadcast, albeit of fairly crude quality, can be received by anyone in the world with a PC and an Internet connection.

The cost of PC plus Internet is rapidly approaching the cost of TV plus licence and its cost will continue to fall. The next generation of mobile computers and communications will mean that any spectator at a soccer match will be able to broadcast video and sound from the match to a worldwide audience. In the digital age it will be practicable and affordable to broadcast *every* match (indeed every public event), and without involving either Mr Birt or his competitors.

Inevitably this explosion of supply means a reduction in price, unless governments seek to protect the dominant position of old-style broadcasting organisations by making it illegal for citizens and football clubs to create and distribute material across the Internet. History suggests that in the end any such prohibition will fail.

Twenty years ago it was unthinkable that children would have a powerful personal computer on their Christmas or birthday wish-lists. Twenty years from now (and probably very much sooner) it will be commonplace for ordinary citizens and every organisation to broadcast the future equivalent of TV productions.

If professional broadcasters want to retain large audiences they will have to compete on the quality of what they offer. They certainly won't be in a position to increase the "cost of watching a screen".

Yours faithfully,
HORACE MITCHELL,
(Programme Director,
European Telework Development),
Tile Barn House,
Woolton Hill, Newbury RG20 9UZ.
horace_mitchell@compuserve.com
April 7.

Coward revival

From the Director of The Red Hot Aids Charitable Trust

Sir, To survive as a standard, a song has to be able to stand up to many different interpretations and styles of performance. It is a cruel paradox that Sir Noël Coward's recordings of his own songs have indeed proved to be inimitable, to the extent that very few have subsequently been performed by other artists. The reputation of his songs has thus sadly been the victim of the success, in his lifetime, of Coward's own performances of them.

Clive Davis ("Echoes of the Master's voice", Arts, April 9) fails to recognise that few people under 50 today could name, or recognise, any of Coward's songs. If one believes that Coward was indeed a great songwriter, one has to accept that his songs need to reach new audiences. Excessive reverence or pastiche are unlikely to convince new audiences of their lasting worth.

All the more reason to welcome a fresh, contemporary approach to Coward's unique legacy, as exemplified in the performances of Robbie Williams, Elton John, and all the other artists involved in the *Twentieth Century Blues* project, of which I am happy to have been the originator.

Davis's pompous attempt to protect Coward's songs from any performances he may not like can only serve further to consign them to the netherworld of "nostalgia" in which they at present unfortunately and unjustly languish.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON WATNEY, Director,
The Red Hot Aids Charitable Trust,
Suite 32, The Eurolink Centre,
49 Effra Road, Brixton, SW2 1BZ.
April 9.

Cheers!

From Sir Humphry Wakefield

Sir, Hemingway readers may well recall his manly Martini 15/1 mix (letter, April 7). Noël Coward's was more manly still.

I was lucky enough to stay in the Master's New York apartment for a few months long ago and his Martini directions were very clear: Chill the gin and shake it, lemon peel routine, incline towards Italy and serve.

Yours &c,
HUMPHRY WAKEFIELD,
Chillingham Castle,
Chillingham,
Northumberland NE66 5NJ.
April 7.

From Miss Deborah Lane

Sir, According to Salvatore Calabrese, in *Classic Cocktails* (Prion, 1997), Sir Winston Churchill would make his *Martinis by "pouring gin into a pitcher* and 'glancing briefly at a bottle of Vermouth' across the room".

Kind regards,
D. J. LANE,
Cowslip Farm, Park Common Lane,
Kenninghall, Norfolk NR16 2ES.

From Mr David Politi

Sir, I was taught four parts gin to no parts vermouth.

Yours,
D. POLITI,
9 Longridge Road, SW5 9SB.

Slips of the tongue

From Mr E. A. J. Parry

Sir, Your report (March 31) about the film *The Man in the Iron Mask* points out that the mask of the prisoner in the Bastille was made of velvet, not iron.

I am reminded of a literary mistranslation in the story of Cinderella who, we are told in the English version, went to the ball and dropped her glass slipper on the palace stairs. In this case the translator of the original French text confused the word *vair* (fur or ermine) with its homophone *verre* (glass). Certainly Cinderella would have been much more comfortable in fur.

It seems possible that in Dumas' story there may somehow have been a confusion between *vair* and *fer* (iron). While not exact homophones they are close enough in pronunciation for a misunderstanding.

Yours,
E. A. J. PARRY,
Hobland House,
Devon House Drive,
Bovey Tracey,
South Devon TQ13 9HA.
April 4.

Cut-off point

From Mrs M. A. Anson

Sir, Mr Bruce Parker alleges (April 4; see also letter, March 30) that *aperitif* is a set of dentures. When consulting a wine list he should also remember that *Châteauneuf-du-Pape* means "my father comes from Newcastle".

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ANSON,
Drax House, Tilshead,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP3 4SJ.
April 5.

From Dr Oliver Impey

Sir, Mr K. H. Larkman (letter, April 4) should not tamper with the text. *Mal de mer* means mother-in-law, not "sick of mother", as every reader of the classic *Fractured French*, by F. S. Pearson, and with superb drawings by R. Taylor (Putnam, London, 1951), knows; just as *voici l'anglais avec son sang-froid habituel* means "here comes that Englishman with his usual bloody cold" and *carte blanche* means "for God's sake, take Blanche home".

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER IMPEY,
Department of Eastern Art,
Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford OX1 2PH.
April 7.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Blight of malaria and its treatments

From Dr Ruth Livingstone

Sir, I read with sympathy and interest the account by Matthew Parris ("I think I'd rather have malaria", Weekend, April 4) of the very unpleasant symptoms he experienced after taking Lariam, the anti-malaria drug.

Unfortunately, I gather from his article that he did not report his symptoms to his GP before departure, which could have averted some of his distress as his GP would probably have advised switching to an alternative drug. In addition, he apparently failed to report his symptoms upon return.

This means that doctors here were unable to learn from his experience, and his GP was unable to report these serious complications using the "yellow card" system, ie, reporting unusual or serious complications to the Committee on Safety of Medicines.

It appears Mr Parris has little faith in doctors ("I don't think they know very much"), and GPs in particular, but to blame the profession for his predicament without having sought appropriate advice when adverse symptoms developed seems a little unjust.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH LIVINGSTONE,
The Little Surgery,
St Mary's Street,
Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2DG.
ruth.livingstone@ukonline.co.uk
April 4.

From Mr Toby Heelis

Sir, Working for the last three years in the safari industry of Zimbabwe and Zambia, I found that not many days went by without a client bringing up the topic of malaria.

Most British clients had been issued with the easy but expensive drug Lariam. Having seen many holidays spoilt from its side-effects I advised people not to continue their course if any showed. If they were travelling for an extended period then I advised them to use Deltaprim, which is taken orally once a week and is cheap.

Most people in the industry had their own methods of dealing with malaria, with a large proportion not using any preventive but dealing with the disease quickly if they caught it. I did not take anything for two years and avoided the disease until last year, when a 12-hour course of a drug called Halfan knocked it on the head within a day. Since then I have caught it twice more, the last time more seriously with a temperature of 105C. I had to take quinine for two weeks.

My advice now to any traveller going to a malaria zone is to avoid Lariam and to try to get hold of the locally used drug: also to carry a couple of doses of one of the courses of cures available, as catching and treating it early should prevent long-term suffering.

Malaria is a nasty disease but with a little knowledge and preparation it should not spoil your travels. I am now in London trying to get treatment for Bilharzia which I picked up in Malawi, but that is another story altogether.

Yours etc,
TOBY HEELIS,
Shaw House,
Melbourne, Derbyshire DE73 1DJ.
tobyheelis@compuserve.com
April 6.

From Dr Stuart Sanders

Sir, Matthew Parris says he "lacks confidence in" GPs and I must rise to the defence of my peers.

It is ridiculous that he would "go straight to the specialist" — the cheek of it! How would Mr Parris ever know if the condition from which he was suffering was malaria, influenza or even something worse? If everyone who had a fever ran to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases it would very quickly be overwhelmed and grind to a halt.

Doctors may "not know very much", but we do know enough to prevent impatient patients such as Mr Parris from wasting specialists' time.

Yours faithfully,
STUART SANDERS,
22 Harmont House,
20 Harley Street, W1N 1AL.
drsanders@email.msn.com
April 4.

From Dr Richard Dawood

Sir, The mosquito with which you illustrated Matthew Parris's article is not *Anopheles*, the vector of malaria, but *Aedes aegypti*, with its characteristic hunched back and smart black-and-white trim. *Aedes* spreads dengue and yellow fever and, on reflection, I too would rather have malaria.

Yours sincerely
RICHARD DAWOOD,
29 Fleet Street, EC4Y 1AA.
richard@aradco.com
April 4.

From Mr Howard G. Woodall

Sir, I was concerned to see the large photo of the semi-naked Matthew Parris accompanying his piece on malaria. I hope your other commentators restrain themselves; or are we to see Peter Riddell, Simon Jenkins and Lord Rees-Mogg as nature made them?

This sort of thing should be nipped in the bud.

Yours sincerely,
HOWARD G. WOODALL,
95 Erlanger Road, SE14 5TQ.
April 6.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will launch the change to the use of liquid petroleum gas in Royal Cars at the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace, on May 7.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Miss Janet Allen, former Headmistress, Benenden School, 62; Viscount Buckmaster, 77; Mr Joseph Burnett-Stuart, former chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 68; Sir Raymond Carr, former Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 79; Mr Gervase de Peyer, clarinettist, 72; Sir Oscar De Ville, former chairman, Meyer International, 73; Mr Clive Exton, scriptwriter and playwright, 68; Mr James Alan Ferman, director, British Board of Film Classification, 68; Mr Michael Hindley, MEP, 51; Dr R.J.B. Knight, deputy director, National Maritime Museum, 54; Dame Anne Poole, former chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 64; the Earl of Sandwich, 55; Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP, 80; Professor Michael Wright, Vice-Chancellor, Aston University, 51.

TOMORROW:
Sir Alan Ayckbourn, playwright, 59; Mr Bill Bryden, theatre director, 56; Miss Montserrat Caballé, opera singer, 65; Mr Brian Connell, writer and broadcaster, 82; Miss Elspet Gray (Lady Rix), actress, 69; Mr H.R. Hewitt, former chairman, Johnson Matthey, 78; the Right Rev John T. Hughes, former Bishop to the Forces, 90.
Mr Uwe Kitzinger, former President, Templeton College, Oxford, 70; the Earl of Limerick, 68; Mr A.W. Mabbs, archivist, 77; Mr Bryan Magee, writer, 68; Air Marshal Sir Harold Maguire, 86; Mr E.C. Meade, chartered accountant, 75; Dr Hilary Nicolle, educationist, 53; Mr George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, 52; Mrs Wendy Savage, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 63.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.G.T. Barnett and Miss A.N. Eccles
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Colin Barnett, of Boulder, Colorado, USA, and Amy, only daughter of Mr Ronald Parsons, of East Lansing, Michigan, and of Dr Jacquelynne Eccles, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

Dr S.M.A. Bays and Miss C.S. Aiken
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Vikki and Howard Bays, of Lee Manor, Romsey, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Nigel and Janet Aiken, of Broadley Villa, Marshfield, Wiltshire.

Mr M.A.J. Burgess and Dr E.L. Basker
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Burgess, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Russell Basker, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.F.G-Hammersley and Miss C.N. Perera
The engagement is announced between John Franklin, only son of Mr and Mrs John Hammersley, of Worfield, Shropshire, and Chrishani, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Perera, of Bickley, Kent and Sri-Lanka.

Mr A. Hayzelden and Miss C.F. Farrar
The engagement is announced between Ashley, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hayzelden, of Roydon, Essex, and Claire, only daughter of Mrs L Walker and stepdaughter of Mr M. Walker, of Black Notley, Essex.

Dr S.G.J. Jones and Miss N.K. Burridge
The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr Patrick Jones, of Willenhall, West Midlands, and Nicky, daughter of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs Brian Burridge, of Stanmore, Middlesex.

Mr C.J. Scudds and Miss P.J.M. Young
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Scudds, of Bucklebury, Berkshire, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Young, of Castletown, Isle of Man.

Mr G.J. Short and Miss B.D. Sneddon
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey James, younger son of Mr and Mrs L. Short, of Gerroa, New South Wales, Australia, and Briony Deborah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Sneddon, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

Mr J.D. West and Miss G. Meinhard
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs David West, of Wimbledon, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Dr Meinhard, of Oxford.

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Matthew Eltringham and Sally Goodman, of London SW3, who have recently announced their engagement

Latest wills

Lawrence Lee **Baumann**, of West Chiltington, West Sussex, left estate valued at £864,045 net.

Marjorie Hensley **Belgrave**, of Sherbourne, Warwick, left estate valued at £759,928 net.
She left £250 each to the PDSA, and to the National Canine Defence League, £200 to Claverdon Parish Church.

Mita Patricia **Cooper**, of Aislaby, Pickering, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £570,928 net.

William Laurie **Hewson**, of Sheffield, left estate valued at £812,176 net.

Vere Saville **Kinsley**, of Addingham, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £730,940 net.

Mary Loraine **Leigh-Coop**, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £499,582 net.

Bridget Mary **Robertson**, of Broadway, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £903,686 net.
She left £20,000 to St Joseph's Hospice, London E8, and to the Leonard Cheshire Foundation; £5,000 to the RNLI; £500 to St Saviour's Catholic Church, Broadway.

Gisela Emilie Olga Anna **Singer**, of Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, left estate valued at £695,453 net.

David Jonathan **Smith**, of Carleton Green, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £518,879 net.

Jean **Stanley**, of Lothersdale, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £601,669 net.
She left shares in her estate to Christ Church Lothersdale, Hulme Grammar School for Girls, Oldham, RSPB and the Girl Guides Association.

Richard Edward **Wheatcroft**, chartered accountant, of Aston, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, left estate valued at £604,067 net.

Eleanor Cledan **Williams**, of Kevingham, East Yorkshire, left estate valued at £681,472 net.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Sir John Eliot, parliamentarian, St Germans, Cornwall, 1592; George Canning, Prime Minister 1827, London, 1770; Sir Charles Hallé, pianist, conductor and founder of the orchestra that bears his name, Hagen, Germany, 1819.
DEATHS: Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of Wales, Aberconwy, 1240; Sir Gerald du Maurier, actor-manager, London, 1934; Sir Archibald McIndoe, plastic surgeon, London, 1960; Josephine Baker, singer, Paris, 1975; Enver Hoxha, Albanian leader 1944-85, Albania, 1985.
The Coronation took place of King William III and Queen Mary II, 1689.
France ceded Gibraltar to England in the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713.
Napoleon abdicated and was banished to Elba, 1814.
The Germans blitzed Coventry, 1941.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Giuseppe Tartini, composer, Istria, 1692; John George Lambton, 1st Earl of Durham, statesman, London, 1792; Alexander Ostrovsky, dramatist, Moscow, 1823.
DEATHS: Boris Godunov, Tsar of Russia 1598-1605, Moscow, 1605; William Kent, architect and landscape gardener, London, 1748; Charles Burney, music historian and composer, London, 1814; Charles-Joseph Messier, astronomer, Paris, 1817; Feodor Chaliapin, bass singer and actor, Paris, 1938; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd American President 1933-45, Warm Springs, Georgia, 1945; Joe Louis, the "Brown Bomber", world heavyweight boxing champion 1937-48, Las Vegas, 1981; Alan Stewart Paton, writer, Durban, 1988; Sugar Ray Robinson, boxer, Culver City, California, 1989.
The American Civil War began with the siege of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 1861.
Vice-President Harry S. Truman succeeded Roosevelt as American President, 1945.
Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union made the first successful flight into space in *Vostok I*, 1961.

The Leverhulme Trust

The Leverhulme Trustees have agreed to award the following grants to institutions:

Research: Economics, business studies, industrial relations
Manchester Metropolitan University, Dr A Alexander, Wolverhampton University, Professor J Benson, Locational strategies of British multiples: 1850-1939, £3,000 extension
National Institute of Economic and Social Research, Mr G Mason, Graduate utilisation in service industries, £42,690 over 1.25 years
University of Strathclyde, Professor A J Hughes Hallett, The co-ordination of fiscal and monetary policy under the stability pact, £12,240 over six months

Research: Law, politics, international relations
University College London, Mr R Hazell, The role of second chambers of Parliament overseas: a comparative study, £46,180 over 12 months
Birmingham University, Professor D Marsh, Professor D Dolowitz, The development of workfare in Britain: learning from the US experience?, £55,970 over two years
Napier University, Professor R M M Wallace, Unaccompanied refugee minors: realising the best interests of the child, £37,920 over two years
Social & Community Planning Research, Mrs C Bryson, Civic engagement & disengagement, £91,800 over three years

Research: Social sciences (incl. anthropology, geography, social psychology)
London School of Economics, Professor H L Moore, Gender & symbolism: new theoretical approaches, £50,480 over two years
London School of Economics, Dr Y Rydin, Local environmental policy: building effective institutions, £37,880 over 1.33 years

Research: Education
Manchester University, Dr J S Williams, Professor N Boreham, Using college mathematics to understand workplace practice, £61,280 over 1.5 years

Research: Basic sciences
Plymouth University, Professor M Depledge, Dr A S Clare, The influence of environmental xenoestrogens on vitellogenesis in crustaceans, £85,320 over 3 years
Leeds University, Dr J E Smith, Dr A M Dunn, Molecular phylogeny of transovarially transmitted microsporidian parasites, £45,950 over two years
Bristol University, Professor A K Stobart, Role of transacylation in regulating triacylglycerol quality in oil seeds, £94,490 over three years
UMIST, Dr T A Brown, Genetic diversity of wild & cultivated wheats, £110,310 over three years
Sheffield University, Dr N J C Spooner, Cocktails of alkali halide scintillating particles: the CASPAR detector, £55,230 over two years
Newcastle upon Tyne University, Professor C F Barenghi, Dr D C Samuels, Vortex coupled turbulence in liquid helium, £60,640 over 3 years
Warwick University, Dr T Drewello, Laser-induced Fullerene fusion, £85,000 over three years
Heriot-Watt University, Professor K J Roberts, Examination of organic crystal surfaces/interfaces via NEXAFS spectroscopy, £44,880 over two years
Dyson Perrins Laboratory, Oxford University, Dr D M Hodgson, Development of enantioselective cycloaddition chemistry, £80,560 over three years
Department of Chemistry, Cambridge University, Professor J-P Hansen, Microstructure & dynamics of highly confined ionic solutions, £84,090 over three years
Liverpool University, Professor H J Rees, Dr P C Turner, Characterisation of moulting hormone hydroxylase cDNAs in an insect pest, £85,830 over three years
Department of Chemistry, Cambridge University, Dr S Balasubramanian, Dr D Klenerman, Fulfilling chemistr's ultimate dream – performing experiments on single molecules, £83,960 over 3 years
Edinburgh University, Dr S E Metcalfe, Lancaster University, Dr P Barker, Environmental impacts of tephra deposition in tropical lake systems (Mexico), £88,700 over two years
Reading University, Dr P Valdes, Professor B Sellwood, An investigation of the "hot-house" to "ice-house" climatic transition, £83,290 over three years
Reading University, Professor K Pye, Effects of changes in wave climate & sea level on estuarine shores, £110,020 over three years
Newcastle upon Tyne University, Dr A Brandenburg, Dr A Shukurov, Magnetohydrodynamic astrophysical jets in three dimensions, £97,190 over three years
University College London, Professor D M Hunt, Professor J K Bowmaker, Sequence & functional analysis of opsin gene promoter regions in the goldfish, £99,160 over three years

Research: Applied sciences (including architecture)
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, Dr J R Durrant, Professor P O'Brien, The fabrication of functional nanocrystalline TiO2 films, £70,000 over two years
Cranfield University, Dr I K Partridge, Modelling cure in thermosets: is there an easier way?, £19,140 over 12 months
Bristol University, Dr J Memmott, The impact of biocontrol on natural communities, £83,470 over 3 years
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Dr T Pennington, Historical biogeography of South American seasonal forests, £101,130 over 3 years

Research: Humanities
Leeds University, Professor J Gooch, Strategy & security: the armed forces & Italian foreign policy, 1922-1940, £52,500 over two years
Reading University, Dr C Duggan, Francesco Crispi – a political biography, £21,000 over 12 months
Portsmouth University, Dr J Mohan, Dr M Powell, The historical geography of the voluntary hospital system in Britain, 1890-1947, £27,120 over 12 months- extension
Newcastle upon Tyne University, Professor D E Minnikin, Dr G D Abbott, Biomarkers for ancient tuberculosis – biomarkers for ancient poverty, £117,280 over 3 years
British School at Rome, Dr H L Patterson, The Tiber & Rome: the regional impact of the city through two millennia, £149,110 over 3 years
Birmingham University, Dr J P Sadler, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, Dr G Hillman, The history & impact of insect pests of stored products from ancient Egypt, £169,130 over three years
Birmingham University, Professor J Haldon, Professor F M Young, Study & edition of unpublished homilies attributed to St Basil the Great, £81,520 over three years
Aberdeen University, Professor G S Rousseau, Cultural consumption, cholera, nostalgia, £75,600 over three years

Education: fine arts
Aldeburgh Foundation, Ms E Webb, Short ensemble course '98-'00 including strings, brass, wind, baroque, £20,130 over three years
Royal Scottish Academy of Music, Dr P Ledger, Masterclasses for singers & instrumentalists, £90,000 over three years
Total grants: £3,156,390

AIRBUS TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT BRITAIN

France and West Germany told the British Government yesterday that they were going ahead with the building of a 250-seat European airbus without Britain as a partner.

A meeting in London between Mr Wedgwood Benn, Minister of Technology, and French and west German Ministers, agreed that the door should be left open in case Britain wants to come in later, but the feeling in aviation circles last night was that British participation in the project is now dead.

Britain's one-third share of research and development costs is £62 m. Full British withdrawal would come as a heavy blow for the British aircraft industry . . .

CONCORDE 002 SOARS OVER SETBACKS

[Two days earlier] the British-built Concorde prototype 002 super-sonic airliner made a successful 22-minute maiden flight from Filton, near Bristol.

"It was wizard — a cool, calm and collected operation," Mr Brian Trubshaw, the British Aircraft Corporation's chief test pilot, said after landing the 110-ton aircraft at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire.

It was a triumph over setbacks. At the beginning of the runway the re-heat system in one engine failed to work. Later, when the Concorde was coming in to land, the radio altimeters failed and Mr Trubshaw himself had to judge the aircraft's height.

Mr Trubshaw made a split-second decision to take the British-assembled Concorde 002 supersonic airliner off the runway at Filton and into her maiden flight.

The plan was that the Concorde should make a fast taxi on the airfield. If everything went well, Mr Trubshaw would make the first flight. Everything did go well and as the 110-ton aircraft raced down the runway at more than 120 mph, its nosewheel raised clear of the ground, he made his decision.

ON THIS DAY

April 11, 1969

April 1969 was an important month for British aviation. On April 11 The Times *reported that Britain was dithering over the European airbus partnership. Two days earlier, the British-built Concorde made her maiden flight — more or less by accident.*

"It all looks good," he told Mr John Cochrane, his co-pilot, so, instead of braking the Concorde to a halt, he pulled back on the control column and soared up into the sky to start a faultless flight lasting 22 minutes.

A few moments earlier, as the engines of the prototype 002 were run up at the end of the runway, there had been a moment of tension which threatened the success of the flight. Reheat, the system under which fuel is sprayed into the jet pipe to give added thrust, failed to ignite in No. 4 engine.

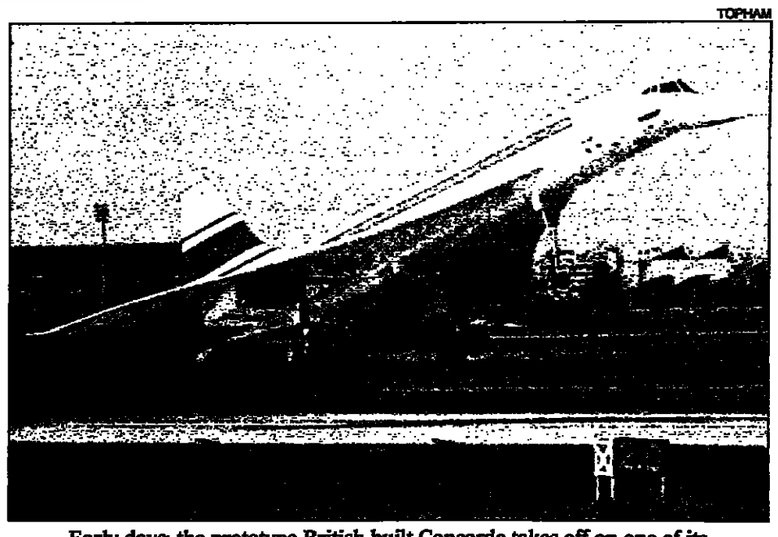
The crew shut the engine down and tried a second time. This time the re-heat lit and the flight was on.

Two other potentially dangerous incidents occurred during the flight; the first was when a light aircraft appeared about a mile away from the Concorde as the supersonic airliner was preparing to land at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire.

The second incident also occurred during the approach to land when the crew found that both radio altimeters had failed. Mr Trubshaw said afterwards: "I had to judge the height for myself."

Looking happy and relaxed, and wiping the cream from a celebratory cake from his chin, he said of the flight: "It went very well. I found it a great advantage to have flown the French Concorde."

TOPHAM



Early days: the prototype British-built Concorde takes off on one of its first proving flights in April 1969

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

de MINVIELLE - On April 9th in Paris, to Caroline (née Symington) and Laurent, twins (Louis and Laura).

FENWICK - On Wednesday April 8th, 1998 to Kate (née Theobald) and Hugo a daughter Anna Elizabeth, a sister for Lucy.

GILES - On 8th April 1998 at The Royal Free Hampstead to Corinne (née Birch) and Paul, a son, Benjamin Matthew.

HARDMAN - On 4th April 1998 at St Mary's, Paddington, to Mary (née Lee) and John, a son, Frederick James Peter (Freddie), a brother for Charlie.

HART - On 29th March to Jemima (née Sellgoe) and James, twin sons, Thomas Richard Wheeler and Harry Frederick Zachariah.

KOMBI BERTON - On 11th January in Hong Kong, to Jumi and Robin, a son, Kitso.

PRICE - On April 7th at Kingston Hospital to Katrina (née Verdon-Roe) and Simon, a son, Thomas Geoffrey Crofton.

ROBINSON - On Tuesday March 31st to Sandra (née Williams) and Peter, a son, Patrick Lancelot, a brother for Phoebe Moonbeam and Adam Marmaduke.

SYMINGTON - See de Minvielle.

WATTLES - On 5th April 1998 to Jessica (née Davies) and Gordon, a beautiful and vociferous daughter, Madeleine Fezelith Dunbar, born under water.

WOODHOUSE - On Thursday 2nd April 1998 to Rebecca (née Day) and Nicholas a son, William Richard Owen.

DEATHS

BOYDELL - Charles John Stirrup, on 8th April 1998, aged 37, suddenly at home with his beloved wife Kate and children, Rosie and Alice. He was adored by his family and his many friends. His bravery and stoicism were an inspiration to all who knew him. Funeral at St Peter's Usborough on Friday 17th April 1998 at 2.00 pm. All are welcome. No flowers please but donations in his memory may be sent to the British Heart Foundation c/o Fearing Funeral Services 1 Rock Villas, Western Road, Ivybridge, Devon. PL21 9AP.

BEDFORD - David Lawrence suddenly in his garden on 3rd April aged 56. Loved son of Gilbert and the late Gladys Bedford and fond brother of Mary and Judy. Loving partner of Sarah Bellfield of Hambleton and greatly respected by his many relatives and friends including those associated with his overseas work for the Standard Chartered Bank. Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church, Uckfield on Thursday 16th April at 2 p.m. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Save the Children Fund c/o Cooper & Son, 11 New Town, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5DL. Tel: 01825 763763.

BUCKLEY - On April 9th, peacefully after a short illness, Lady Bettie Buckley, widow of Admiral Sir Kenneth Buckley, much loved mother of Judy, Martin and Lindsay, grandmother and great-grandmother and friend of many. Funeral Service 11.00 o'clock Friday 17th April St John's R.C. Church, Lee-on-Solent, followed by interment. Family flowers only, donations if desired to League of Friends, Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

CASH - Janet Mary. See Snow.

COBBAN-LEA - Leslie William dearly beloved brother of Doris brother-in-law of Clarence Mortler. Passed away peacefully on 3rd April 1998 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

CRAWFORD - Eleanor Mary peacefully at home on 7th April 1998, Widow of Surg. Capt. T. G. B. Crawford RN and much loved mother of Susan and Michael, grandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at St Catharine's Church, Chipping Campden 12 noon Tuesday 14th April 1998. Enquiries to Phillip Tomkins Funeral Directors, La Sheeep Street, Chipping Campden Glos. GL55 6DH Tel: 01386 841818.

CUNDY - Norah Therese Lillian (Tessa) peacefully on 9th April 1998. Much loved wife of the late Francis Cundy, mother of Roger and Jonathan, grandmother of Daniel and Jack. Private Cremation. Memorial Service at All Saints Church, Milford-on-Sea, on Tuesday 21st April at 2.45pm. Flowers or donations to National Playing Fields Association c/o Davies Funeral Services, Wallis House, Milford-on-Sea, Hants. SO41 0QD.

DANE - Dr David Surrey. Died suddenly at home in Puttenham on 9th April. Funeral Service in Puttenham Parish Church at 3.00pm on Monday April 20th. Family flowers only. Donations to R.S.P.B. Enquiries to Farnham Funeral Services (01252) 711444.

FOSTER - On 2nd April, suddenly Ian, devoted and greatly loved husband of Ann, and father of Andy and Ross. Funeral at Redhill Baptist Church, Hatchlands Road, Redhill, Surrey on Thursday 16th April at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations to Arthritis Care c/o Stoneman Funeral Services Tel: 01737 763456

FRANSELLA - Yvonne died peacefully on 4th April 1998 aged 99. Beloved mother of Avril and Keith. May she rest in peace.

GEE - 1897 - 1998. On April 7th, full of years and with great calm, C H Rodney Gee M.C. T.D. formerly of Clifton College. Funeral Service for family and close friends. Thanksgiving Service in early summer.

HOARE - See Lockhart-Mummery.

HUGHES - John Rowland M.D., M.Ch., Orth., F.R.C.S. Edin., F.R.C.S. Retired Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital, Oswestry and the former War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham, On April 8th 1998 peacefully at his home with his family in Chirk aged 82 years. Dearly loved husband of Mary, dear father of Judy and much loved Taid of Chloe and Nicola. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Chirk on Friday April 17th followed by cremation. Enquiries Edmund Rowlands & Son Funeral Directors Chirk Tel: 01691 772462.

LARKINS - John Gordon. Very suddenly on Tuesday 7th April 1998, aged 76 years. Dear friend of Hilda Cator, much loved brother of Pam and Peter, uncle and great-uncle, and a good friend to many. Private cremation for family and close personal friends. Service of Thanksgiving at a date to be arranged. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Royal British Legion or the Woodland Trust to Heritage and Sons, Funeral Directors, 63 High Street, Wheelow, Bucks. HP18 3DG.

LOCKHART-MUMMERY - Jean, Lady Lockhart-Mummery, peacefully at home on April 7th 1998. Widow of Sir Hugh (Lyn) formerly widow of Rev'd. David Hoare. Much loved mother and grandmother. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Lawrence in the Square, Winchester on Saturday, 16th May 1998 at 11.00a.m. No flowers please, donations, if desired, to Priaxgate Practice c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester SO23 0HU.

LUCAS - On April 7th 1998. Peacefully at Grosvenor Park Nursing House, Bexhill. After long illness bravely borne, Patricia Josephine Bathsua Lucas (née Hassan). Beloved wife of Sam. Cremation at Eastbourne on Thursday April 16th at 4.00pm. Flowers, or donations to Made Curie Memorial Foundation or Cancer Research. C/o Mummery F/D 31, Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1AH.

MANNINI-CARINI - Baroness Irene, dear mother of Riccardo and Romolo died in her 91st year on 9th April 1998. Requiem Mass at 10am, 20th April at Private Chapel, Nazareth House, 165-175 Hammersmith Road, London W6. Flowers to Nazareth House.

MISKIN - Christopher Richard, son of the late Colonel and Mrs C H Miskin of St Albans after a long illness. Loving father to Jane and John and brother of Biddy, Ann and Henry. Cremation has taken place.

McLOUGHLIN - Irene Caroline, aged 88, peacefully and suddenly on Palm Sunday April 5th 1998. Much missed and devoted sister of Ivy Wheeler; Fondly remembered by her relatives and all those with them she lived and worked. Dearly loved friend of her "family" at Tuxners Green. Funeral Service will be held at 12 noon on Thursday April 16th at Aldershot Crematorium. Donations to St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke or charities for the blind. Family flowers (and enquiries) to Stowells, Worting Road, Basingstoke (tel: 01256 321281).

MOSES - Gwynneth died very peacefully at home in Devon with her family on 7th April aged 77 years.

MEARY - Dorothea 'Clare' in hospital in Edinburgh on 7th April 1998, aged 82, dear wife of the late Gerard, mother of Hazel and grandmother of James and Mark. Funeral Service at Trinity Church, Abingdon on Friday 17th April at 11.00am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Trinity Church.

OWEN - John Benjamin Brynmor of Cardigan, West Wales. Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering at Liverpool University. Funeral Saturday April 11th. Donations in lieu of flowers to RNLI (Cardigan Branch) c/o F Coates, 7 Union Terrace, St. Dogmaels, Cardigan, West Wales.

POTTER - Peacefully on April 8th 1998 Major Cecil Formby R.A (ltd) aged 80. After a long illness bravely borne. Dearly loved husband of Rosemary and beloved father of Daphne, Heather, Veronica and Bryony, grandfather and great-grandfather. Cremation at Bayswater Crematorium, Bath on Thursday April 16th at 2pm. No flowers please but donations if wished to the Officers' Christian Union c/o the Funeral Directors E. Hooper & Son 13 St James Parade, Bath, BA1 1UL.

SNOW - Janet Mary. Peacefully at home on Thursday 9th April 1998. Widow of the late Major Jeremy Snow and mother of James and David. Funeral at St James' Church, Rowledge on Thursday 16th April at 12 noon. Enquiries to H. C. Patrick & Co., 86 East Street, Farnham, GU9 7TP. Tel: 01252-714884.

WATSON - Gladys. Beloved wife of the late Karl, died peacefully at home on 7th April a few days before her 87th birthday after a distressing illness borne with great courage. Much loved mother, grandma and great grandma. Funeral Service at St. Botolph's Church, Chevening on Friday 17th April at 11am followed by cremation at Tunbridge Wells. Family flowers only, donations (if desired) to the Motor Neurone Society c/o W. Hodges F/D, St John's Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent. (01732 454457).

WILLIAMS - Gertrude May née Beynon died peacefully on 8th April 1998 aged 79 years. Beloved wife for 54 years of David. Devoted mother of Phil and Sue and devoted grandmother of Jenny, Kitty, Peter and Tom who all loved her greatly. Funeral Service will be held on Thursday 16th April at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham at 10.30am. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory should be made to St. Mary's Hospice, 176 Beddlesborn Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7DA.

WOOD - Frances Mary, much loved wife of Geoffrey, died peacefully at home in New Zealand on April 8th, surrounded by her family.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

THEOBALD - John Frederick in loving memory of a dear husband, father, brother and uncle who died on Easter Monday April 12th 1993 in his 79th year, peacefully in his sleep at home in Blackheath, Kent. Missed by all who knew him.

FOR SALE

YORK, PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta fireplaces & stone sinks, Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry reservoir. Nat & interest del. Horley Hextall 01280 850099 (Wilts)

GIFTS

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper 1847-1997 in presentation folder £19.00 inc p&p. Newsreel years videos avail. Tel/Fax 01934-412844 6pm 7 days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GURDJIEFF Ouspensky centres, a Fourth Way school now accepting students 0181 347 5383.

J. 60 xxxxx.

THE Society for the Establishment & Advancement of Contemporary Alchemy. For details sae to SEACA 23 Cooper st, Nelson, Lancs. BB9 7TW.

T The life that I have... I will Wishing to whom? Message please. Elton P Carpeted A.

75 is no age to be leaving home.

Rukba helps elderly people preserve their precious independence by providing them with extra income so they can afford to stay in their own homes.
And 900 volunteers offer them something even more valuable than money - friendship.
For further information: FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8BR or telephone:
0345 58 56 80
Rukba
Helping elderly people stay independent
Reg. Charity. tl-4075

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAIL: Chicago, all theatre, C Richard, Spice Girls, All Sports, Rugby, Sport. 0171 400 6182

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

STARLING, Dorothy Sybil of 13 Gordia Close, Didsbury, Manchester M41 7RL and formerly of 27a Princess Green London SW6 died on 14th August 1997. Particulars to Child & Child Solicitors of 9 Motcomb Street London SW1X 8LE before 15th June 1998

SHERMAN, Barrie David of 16 Camden Mews, London NW1 died on 28 August 1997 particulars to DOWER BAKER Solicitors of 229/235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON NW1 7BU before 12 June 1998.

LEGAL NOTICES

CANADA
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
SUPERIOR COURT
DISTRICT OF MONTREAL
PRESENT:
MR. JUSTICE A.R. HILTON
No: 500-05-040197-988
TRUST GENERAL DU CANADA
Applicant
vs.
JOHN CALDER
and
ET ALS
Respondents

NOTICE NOTICE
NOTICE is given to JOHN CALDER, that the Applicant filed a motion to replace a trustee, which will be presented on May 14, 1998 at 9h00 am, in Room 2.16 of the Montreal Courthouse located at 1 Notre-Dame Street East, in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada.
A copy of the motion to replace a trustee, a List of Exhibits and Exhibits P-1 to P-7 have been left at the office of the Superior Court at the Montreal Courthouse to the attention of JOHN CALDER.
Place: MONTREAL
Date: April 6, 1998
Mtre. Hutton Goudron, Blanda, Thomas, attorneys
630 René-Lévesque Boulevard West
27th Floor
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H3B 1S6
Tel: 001 514 871-1398

PUBLIC NOTICES

Record Maps are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £75,000 for 14 Clare Court, Judd Street, WC1. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Record Maps, 26 Museum Street, London, WC1A 1JT. 0171-636-2726.

GIFTS

FLOWERS BY POST year round. 12 Carnations £10.00, 18 £13.00, 12 Carnations & 25 Freesias £18.00, 25 Freesias £10.50, 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £24.50. Card and message free. La Reserve Maison Nursery, St Saviour's, Guernsey, CI. Tel 01481 63062. CC's. Fax 01481 66013

FLATSHARE

WANTED Accom in Central London by Mature Prof female, 4 nights pw 01962 440270

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

BRITANNICA Encyclopedia, 1st out edition, boxed new, black leather, unopened boxes. Cost £1200 will accept £499 delivered. Tel: 0181 959-4606.

Estate Wanted
Sets of British coins for any year 1911 to 1981 in a superb gift wallet. Priced from £24. *Phone for a free brochure.*
UK Coin Heritage, PO Box 22560-TT, London W6 8WW Ph:0171-602 4955

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE TIMES

OPENING TIMES/DEADLINES FOR BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES. OVER THE EASTER PERIOD

Our offices will be open for the above notices only

For notices to appear on:

- Monday 13 April the deadline is Saturday 11 12 noon.
- Tuesday 14 April the deadline is Monday 13 at 12.15 pm.

Telephone: 0171 680 6880
Facsimilie: 0171 481 9313

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Please read Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
Miss J. Noonan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.
Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725

Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent, a daytime and home telephone number and address.

Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

Advertising Rate is £15.25 per line inc VAT.

هذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

BILL REID

Bill Reid, Canadian sculptor, died on March 13 aged 78. He was born on January 12, 1920.









Bill Reid helped to restore the pride of Indians across North America. As the anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss wrote, he "tended a flame that was close to dying". After his death, two thousand people gathered in the great hall of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of *British Columbia*, and from four in the afternoon until midnight speaker after speaker spoke in praise of the departed carver, goldsmith, and rediscoverer of the art of the Haida. These are the northwest Pacific Coast people whose home was known by white Canadians as the Queen Charlotte Islands, until — thanks largely to the influence of Reid — it regained its name of 7,000 years, Haida Gwaii.

Reid not only preserved traditional Haida art — notably some of the great totem poles — but gave the tradition new impetus and a contemporary feel. The Haida culture had been in retreat since 1850, ravaged by poverty, smallpox and the outlawing of many customs. Now, however, collectors prize not only Reid's work but that of the generation of younger artists whom he inspired, such as Robert Davidson and Jim Hart. His own work is found in museums as far afield as Paris, London and Asia.

If Reid took pride in his Haida roots, it was in the teeth of the prejudices of his youth. His mother, he wrote, had learnt "the major lesson taught the native peoples of our hemisphere during the first half of this century: that it was somehow sinful and debased to be, in white terms, an Indian, and [she] certainly saw no reason to pass any pride in that part of their heritage to her children".

So it was not until his teens that, with an American father of German Scots stock, Reid became aware of his mother's ancestry, let alone that she was the grand-niece of the great Haida carver Charles Edenshaw (1837-1920); nor was it until his twenties that he had a proper conversation with his maternal grandfather, Charlie Gladstone, an artist whose work, if not of the first rank, was executed before the breakdown of Haida culture.

At high school on Vancouver Island, William Ronald Reid had been excited by Kandinsky; and, in a year's course at Victoria College, by Cézanne, Van Gogh and Picasso. And when, after several years' work in commercial radio in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, he became an announcer with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto, he enrolled in a course of platinum and diamond setting at Ryerson College, finding stimulus in the contemporary industrial design of Charles Eames and the Scandinavians. He went on to a year's course in jewellery design at London's Central School of Art and Design — acquiring the perspective without which decracinated native artists can so easily slide into *kitsch*.

Crucial, however, was the late meeting with his grandfather, as was the chance in Toronto to study the Royal Ontario Museum's collection of northwest coast artefacts, in particular the great totem pole from the village of Tanu, home of the grandmother whom he had never known, and whom his mother had described as "a saint". During his year at the Central School, Reid took every opportunity to study artefacts in English collections.

In 1955 he joined a team that salvaged totems from the former villages of Ninstints, Tanu and Skedans, and took them to the University of British Columbia, where the president, Norman McKenzie, was drawing up plans for a Totem Park on the campus. Reid also made a film about this salvage work. The reaction was mixed, however, with some critics arguing that the poles did not belong in museums, and that decay was part of the life cycle understood by their makers. Haida artefacts were brought to international attention, but some said that to call them "art" was to force them into an alien category. The controversy about the "selling out" of native culture by bringing it to the notice of the white majority continues to rage in Canada (as elsewhere).

In 1958 Reid was commissioned to build two Haida houses on the campus, and Harry Hawthorn, head of the anthropology department, recognising his skill and knowledge, invited him to join the Kwakiutl carver Mungo Martin in the creation of a totem pole.

Then Reid, Hawthorn and Wilson Duff of the University of Victoria went on a field trip to the Queen Charlottes to survey and rescue decaying poles, which now stand in the UBC Museum of Anthropology, as do Reid's own massive *Sea Wolf* (1960) and *Bear* (1966). Roughly hewn from cedar, these are a marked contrast to his polished version of *Raven Discovering Mankind in a Clamshell*.

Though a public artist, working in forms which had evolved as statements of their owners' lineage and status in Haida society, Reid was always glad to accept private commissions, whether for jewellery (in boxwood as well as metal) or the carving of a front door. Nor did he confine himself to single figures: in frieze or miniature totem pole, the creatures of his bestiary, tails and tongues in each other's mouths, make a line that is always graceful and often witty, and affirms the Haida view of the interrelatedness of all beings.

Reid's work was the subject of more than one critical study, and he himself collaborated on a number of books, including *Form and Freedom* (with Bill Holm) and *Haida Monumental Art* (with George MacDonald).

In 1987, in protest against wholesale logging on Lyell Island in the former Queen Charlotte Islands, Reid ceased work on *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, a canoeful of men and beasts representing the journey along the river of life, which had been commissioned by the Government. His moral authority in Canada was now such that the logging ceased. Then, battling against Parkinson's disease which had been creeping up on him for years, he completed the work — which now stands, as intended, in the courtyard of the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC. For years, the artistic proponent of the Haida nation, Reid had become a representative of all Canada.

Bill Reid was twice married.

MILESTONES



Dame Mary Cartwright, DBE, FRS, mathematician and Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, 1949-68, died on April 3 aged 97. She was born on December 17, 1900.

After working with the mathematician G. H. Hardy at Oxford, Mary Cartwright moved to Girton in Cambridge, where she was to be Mistress for 19 years. Her academic papers are severely technical, but she also promoted the causes of good maths teaching in schools and of women in universities. Before the war she had done groundbreaking work which proved an important contribution to chaos theory.

Obituary published on April 7.

Cozy Powell, rock drummer, died on April 5 aged 50. He was born on December 29, 1947.

From Rainbow and Bedlam to Black Sabbath, the Splinter Group and Whitesnake, Cozy Powell seemed to be the frenzied drummer in all the groups with the worst album covers of the 1970s and 1980s. He came to prominence in 1971 when he joined the Jeff Beck Group. When they split up, the pop producer Mickie Most kept him busy with session work, including early recordings by Hot Chocolate. In 1974 Powell's skills were best displayed on the drum solo *Dance With the Devil*, which reached number three in the singles chart. Two other headache-inducing hits followed before Powell joined the former Deep Purple guitarist Richie Blackmore. This year, he was to have gone on the road with Brian May from Queen.

Obituary published on April 9.

Tammy Wynette, American country singer, died on April 7, aged 55. She was born on May 5, 1942.

With 30 million records sold, Tammy Wynette was one of the most successful of all female country singers. She signed to Epic Records in 1966, and her hits included *I Don't Want To Play House*, *D-I-V-O-R-C-E* and — her anthem — *Stand By Your Man*. After running from a couple of men whom she happened to have married, she met the singer George Jones, who became her third husband. In seven stormy years they had one daughter, 12 hit singles and ten hit albums, chronicling every twist of their relationship — and his relationship with the bottle. After another disposable marriage, she found her fifth husband, the songwriter and producer George Richey, with whom she stayed for 20 years. In 1988 she filed for bankruptcy, but to her fans she remained "the First Lady of Country".

Obituary published on April 8.



MORRIS COX

Morris Cox of the Gogmagog Press, writer, printer and painter, died on March 31 aged 94. He was born on May 3, 1903.





MORRIS COX is well known to collectors of contemporary private press printing for the books he produced at his Gogmagog Press using homemade presses and scrap materials to make his plates. He was, though, a painter of considerable stature, a sculptor, a puppeteer, a poet, and author of a number of novels. Widely read, and of a philosophical turn of mind, he had studied Egyptology at night school and was greatly interested in mummers and early folklore.

His style of printing was quirky and personal, eschewing the perfectionism of other pressmen, but his books — often limited to just ten or twenty copies — are now keenly sought and bought by collectors. *Gogmagog*, a bibliography and extensive appreciation of his work by David Chambers, Colin Franklin and Alan Tucker, was published by the Private Libraries Association in 1991.

Born at Forest Gate the son of a master builder, Morris George Cox won a scholarship to West Ham School of Art at the age of 13, and joined an advertising agency in the late 1920s. Successful though he was, he found the work unattractive, and he turned to printmaking and writing as a way of life. He drew cartoons for children's annuals, and designed a number of book-jackets.

For a year he ran a shop in Sicilian Arcade, Holborn, selling nothing but his own work, and scampering up from the basement whenever — if ever — customers appeared. He wrote a number of novels during this period, but could find no publisher. In 1938 Faber remarked of *March Demon* that "the reader is exhausted after reading the first few pages", and it must be said that the text — a collage of words and phrases cut from Victorian children's books — has a daunting look, though its mixture of the wisdom and the stupidity of the ordinary world recalls the lunacy of *Tristram Shandy*. (Cox eventually published its 255 pages in a photocopied edition limited to five copies in 1984.)

During the war he served as leader of a light rescue squad, and a later work, *War in a Cock's Egg* (1960), "the apotheosis of an unknown victim of a war", recalled the horrors of the time.

He married Winifred Cresswell in 1940, and her modest earnings enabled him to continue as writer and artist after the war. Some of his short stories were published in *World Review* in the 1950s, and Routledge published *The Whirligig and Other Poems* in 1954, but declined anything further. Then, at an age when others would have contemplated retirement, Cox decided to publish his poetry (and eventually some of his prose) on his own account. At 57 he founded the Gogmagog Press, and 35 books followed, his poems illuminated with prints of great originality, both in design and the method of printing.

He used an office copying press for many of his books, sliding blocks and type under the platen, and printing the hand-inked type in the usual way. The blocks, made from lace, string, grasses, cardboard and other scrap materials were printed onto sheets of plastic backed with thin rubber to accommodate their roughness, and after a series of impressions on the plastic, paper was substituted for the block, and the finished design printed back on to it. This laborious process was made all the slower because Cox bound all the books himself.

Work at the press culminated, in his 81st year, with *A Mystique of Mummers*, a series of 20 large and exceptionally powerful linocuts made by the elimination process, using the progressively whittled-away linoleum to print successive colours.

Over the next five years Cox produced a further 38 volumes, in what he called the Gogmagog Photocopy Library, the last appearing in 1989. As well as prewar novels, poems and illustrations, this included new work such as collections of collage prints, which often commented humorously on a world of which Cox felt scarcely a part.

Throughout the whole period of his book production, Cox was also painting. He worked often in gouache, and, regrettably, on hardboard, since mounted canvas cost more than he could afford. Abstracted figures, contorted portraits and subjects from nature were all treated with the same spirited originality as his books.

Alan Tucker has expressed fears that the Gogmagog books will be treated simply as artefacts, their texts left unread, and this may be true of some of the novels, particularly as the editions are so extremely limited. The poetry, though, makes exciting reading, even when at its most complex, and is a perfect complement to the prints: neither can be fully comprehended without the other.

Judging their place is difficult, but the 35 books from the Gogmagog Press stand high in comparison with the other fine presses of this century. They match Pissarro's Eragny Press in their delicate beauty, and their variety of style can be a relief after the ponderous volumes from Kelmscott or the anonymous elegance of the Doves Press. An exhibition of Cox's work was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the spring of 1994, following the gift of his own collection to the National Art Library.

He is survived by his wife.

JAMES McINTOSH PATRICK

James McIntosh Patrick, painter, died in Dundee on April 7 aged 91. He was born on February 4, 1907.



ESSENTIALLY a popular artist, James McIntosh Patrick won himself a special place in the hearts of Scots — and lovers of Scotland — around the world. A few years ago a print from one of his paintings was the best-selling reproduction in America by a foreign artist.

His panoramic views, mostly done in later years in Angus within twenty miles of Dundee, are constructed with a farmer's understanding of the way that man and nature meet, from field drain to mountain weather. He has even been called "Scotland's Breughel".

Patrick used perspective with all the verve and the curiosity of a hiker or an explorer, bringing many aspects of a scene together through his skills in design.

James McIntosh Patrick was born in Dundee. His father, Andrew Patrick, was an architect and an accomplished watercolourist, and James began to paint and to experiment with etching at the age of 14 while he was still at school at Morgan Academy. He enrolled at Glasgow School of Art in 1924, winning a number of student prizes.

In 1926 and 1927 he spent the summers working in France around southern hill-towns such as Carcassonne, preparing a group of etchings which he then offered to a Dundee printseller, who saw enough quality in them to pass them on to the London market.

This was the time of the "print boom", with many enthusiastic collectors, and with Scots artists at the forefront; by the time Patrick had left college in 1928, he had an assured income from Harold Dickins, the London print publisher, of £200 per annum, and during the next few years he produced a popular series of French and Scottish landscapes marked by strong composition and spacious perspective.

However, around 1930 the demand for prints slumped, and Patrick was forced to diversify his activities: he took a part-time post at Dundee College of Art, and made illustrations for postcards and newspapers. Valentine's, the Dundee postcard and reproduction publishers, commissioned views from him of towns all over Britain, which were retailed by Woolworths stores for many years under the name of "Etchographs". He also turned more to oil painting. He had already shown at the Royal Academy in London from 1928, to a favourable reception in the press. His oil paintings tended to a more atmospheric lighting and treatment.

The Fine Art Society began to sell Patrick's work from 1934, showing his painting *The Three Sisters, Glencoe*, which, though rejected by the Royal Academy, led to the purchase in the following year of *Winter in Angus* by the Tate Gallery through the trustees of the Chantrey Bequest.

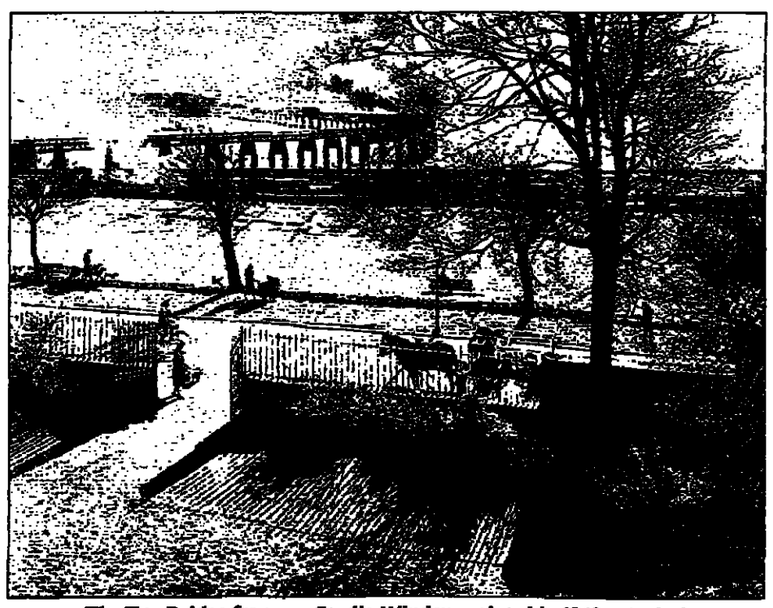
Also in 1935 *St Francis, Assisi* was sold to the National Gallery of South Africa, and a portrait, *Marion*, won the Guthrie Award at the Royal Scottish Academy. In 1936 Frank Pick, the vice-chairman of London Transport, commissioned a number of Underground posters from Patrick: these and subsequent commissions from mainline railway companies of views of Edinburgh, Loch Lomond, Dryburgh Abbey, the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay, made Patrick a familiar artist to millions in the heyday of railway posters.

Wartime call-up in 1940 gave Patrick a training as a tank driver before he was commissioned in the Camouflage Corps, where he worked on the camouflage of weapons, vehicles and installations, first in Britain and then in North Africa and Italy; with accompanying private battles between his "dulling-down" for safety and CSMs' demands for spit-and-polish.

This outdoor living, and the rare chance to make a swift watercolour in the Mediterranean light, were advantages to Patrick after the war, when he began to exhibit and sell his watercolours; and it also brought more outdoor feeling to his oils. He began to take his oil painting easel outside, to paint directly from nature.

These realistic, atmospheric recreations of landscape and life endeared Patrick, from the 1950s onward, to all Scots; many Scottish expatriates treasure prints of his work. And as a lively humorous extempore speaker, Patrick was much in demand and acquired a considerable personal popularity. His 80th birthday retrospective exhibition in 1987 in Dundee, Aberdeen and Liverpool confirmed his huge following.

James McIntosh Patrick married in 1933 Janet Watterston, who died in 1983; there are a son and daughter of the marriage.



***The Tay Bridge from my Studio Window*, painted in 1948: a typical Scottish landscape by James McIntosh Patrick**

Equities end on firm note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
632	505	Allied Domecq	632	+ 11	3.9	16.2
412½	295	Bulmer (HP)	364		5.1	11.3
42½	22½	Burn Stewart	23½		8.0	
764	432	Diageo▼	739½	- 4½	2.4	32.3
900	770	Glenmorangie A	807½		2.1	19.3
225	258	Highland Dist	287½	+ 5	3.8	13.2
213½	160	Matthew Clark	202½	- 6	12.3	6.5
59½	39½	Mirrydon W	39½		9.8	
2021½	1368¾	SA Breweries	2000	- 21¼	1.8	

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1575	1178¾	ABN-AMRO	1575	+ 21½	1.9	23.4
1345	1010	Abbey Natl	1203	- 10	3.2	18.4
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	912	+ 3	2.9	18.1
796½	587½	Allied Irish	768½	+ 11	2.4	21.3
447½	378½	Aus New Z	447	- ½	4.5	
5416¾	3881¼	Bank America	5103¾	- 59¾		
813	471	Bank Scotland	784	- 6	1.8	21.7
1996	1068	Barclays†	1825	- 7	2.5	18.6
1276	916½	Br of Ireland	1168	+ 24	1.8	25.6
£102½	6790¾	Citicorp	9868¾	+ 43¾		
1653½	1565½	Commerzbk	1593½		3.2	
543¾	290¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	440¾	+ 6¼	0.9	
5068¾	3668¾	Deutsche Bk	4949¾	+ 84¼	1.2	
1206½	1168½	Espirito Santo	1168½		3.1	
531	285½	Fuji Bank Y	372½	+ 6	1.0	74.7
2020	1294	HSBC†	1982	+ 30	3.2	15.9
2002	937	HSBC HK†	1879	+ 24	3.3	15.0
1000	700½	Halifax†	880	+ 2	2.5	25.5
842½	642½	Irish Perm†	765		2.1	22.2
1070	698	Lloyds TSB†	1022½	+ 2½	2.1	27.2
895½	770¾	Nat Aust Bk	895½	+ ½	4.2	
1208	751	Nat Westt	1160	- 3	3.5	24.7
673	575	Northern Rock	643	- 1	2.1	24.0
1099	565	Ryl Bk Scot	1009	- 6	2.7	19.8
972	538	Stand Chartt	972	+ 28	2.4	15.7
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
427½	385½	Westpac	423½	+ 1	3.3	
400	308	Woolwich†	371	+ 1	3.2	19.1

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1180	873	Bass▼	1175	+ 15	2.9	21.0
61½	50½	Brk fox the Bdr	54½		4.4	16.3
160½	144½	Bulldozed Brw	160		5.5	14.1
143½	110	City Centre Rest	143		2.5	
1140	581	Compass Gp	1061	+ 11	1.2	36.9
327½	280½	Eldridge P 'A'	327½		3.3	16.5
364½	251½	Enterprise Inns	364½		2.6	20.1
472½	425	Fuller Sm 'A'	472½		3.8	15.2
477½	400	Greenalls Grp	461½	+ 17	4.5	11.5
780	676½	Greene King	689		3.1	14.1
276½	197½	Grosvenor Inns	276½		2.9	36.2
335	260	Groupe Chez Ger	327½	+ 1½	1.2	22.6
248½	214½	Hardy Henson	235½	+ 2	6.1	10.3
2175	1925	Holt J	1940		3.9	10.9
75	62	Inn Business†	74½		3.1	11.2
305	279	Mansfield	295	+ 1	3.1	12.2
320½	254½	Mission Thmp	298½	- 3½	3.5	10.6
442½	422½	Morland	427½		3.9	10.8
382½	294½	Old Eng Pub	382½	+ 2½	0.8	30.2
31½	21½	Paramount	26½			
828½	678½	PizzaExpress	796½	- 2	0.6	36.0
377½	297½	Ramsdens (H)	302½	+ 2½	2.1	28.1
378½	302½	Regent Inns†	378½		1.2	27.1
227	140½	SFI	221½		0.5	38.6
950	717	Scott & New	932	+ 2	3.0	18.6
268½	227	Vaux Group	260½	+ ½	4.8	12.2
342	273½	Wetherspoon JD†	327	- 1½	0.8	35.2
1133	850	Whitbread	1130	+ 22	2.7	19.4
530	469	Wolvrhmptn D	524		4.5	11.9
434½	381	Yates Bros	434½	+ 2	0.9	31.3
667½	637½	Young 'A'	647½		3.0	26.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
68	49½	Aggregate Indst	62½	+ ½	3.5	21.6
405½	290	BPB	382	- 2	3.2	17.5
106½	91½	Baggeridge Brk	94		4.7	12.7
62½	44½	Blockleys	56		1.0	62.5
407	271½	Blue Circle†	360	- 4	4.0	13.6
123½	98½	Breedon PLC	117½		6.4	
187½	125½	Br Dredging	178½		4.6	
923	705	CRH	862½	+ 5	1.2	21.4
82½	47½	Calcdonian Rby	80½		8.1	4.9
144	107½	Capcot	142½		5.7	12.3
215½	158½	Caradon	188½	- 1½	5.6	13.1
115	100½	Caradon pf	113½		8.0	
130½	90½	Chelton Gpt	118½		4.5	8.7
219	217½	Dyson (J&J)	218½		3.3	13.0
130	107½	Dyson 'A'	107½	- 2½	6.7	6.4
60½	43½	Ennstone	50½			
197½	147	Epwin	165		7.7	8.8
115½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy†	114		4.4	10.5
190½	154	Graham Grp†	190½	+ 2	3.9	19.0
282½	227½	Halstead (J)	249½	- 2	5.1	18.2
395	245	Hanson†	351	+ 16	4.3	12.1
266	179	Hepworth†	247½	+ 1	4.5	
152½	120½	Hewetson	149½	- 1	5.4	9.8
239½	202½	Heywd Whnt	235½	+ ½	7.3	8.9
66	43	Itoocit†	50½	- ½	5.4	
365	250	Johnston	277½	+ 2½	5.8	
107½	84½	Lilleshall†	98½		6.3	9.7
118	82½	Marley†	108	- ½	5.8	9.3
145½	120	Marshalls	141½		4.8	
412½	328½	Meyer Intl	392½		3.9	14.6
77½	64½	Norcros	69½	- ½	3.4	15.0
134	103½	Pilkington	114	- 1	5.1	14.6
190	156½	Polypipe†	157½	- 1	2.7	11.8
24	14½	Dukgota	17½			14.7
1016	740½	RMC Gp	1000	+ 23	3.4	14.0
110½	78½	Rubeold	105½		6.0	
139½	111½	Rugby Group	120		4.2	16.8
85	76½	Russell (A)	82½		4.6	
253	195½	SIG†	199½	- ½	4.9	10.1
2½	1½	SWP	2			10.9
237½	220½	Sharpe & Fisher†	235½		3.5	
25	14½	Spring Ram	21	- ½	0.6	
268½	144½	Streamline Hldgs	250	- 1½	4.7	
130½	93	Tarmac†	110½	- ½	6.4	13.3
88	83	Tilon	83		7.8	8.8
628½	457	Travis Perkins†	572	- 4	2.4	17.6
95	60½	Tudor†	82½		4.5	10.6
324½	180½	Ulls@one	315½		1.4	33.4
570	410	Wolseley	435	+ 2	3.4	13.9

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
188	134½	Albright & Wilt	183	- 2	3.9	18.1
204½	110½	Allied Colloids	204½		2.0	27.7
127½	106½	Amber Ind	125		5.6	9.9
107½	92½	Amberley Gp	97½	- 2½	2.2	16.5
100	72	Abilone Ex	83½			14.0
2275	2003¾	BASF DM	2112½		3.2	
1109	850	BOC	940	+ 30	3.6	16.2
422½	331½	BTP	393½	- ½	3.8	18.8
2537½	2131½	Bayer DM50	2450		2.3	
128	99	Brent Chemst	101		3.7	11.4
298	210½	Br Vitrt	290½	+ 2½	3.8	14.7
187½	128½	Brunner Mond†	181½	- 2	6.0	9.9
296	266½	Canning (W)	280½		4.0	
229½	155	City Technology	195		2.4	37.7
445	351½	Croda	412	- 8½	3.6	19.5
240½	203½	Doeflex	240		4.5	10.0
152½	116	Elementis	137½			21.8
313½	266½	Ellis & Everard	267½	- ½	4.8	11.5
62½	53½	Euro Colour	57	- ½	5.4	10.1
178½	138½	Eibbon	157½		5.6	10.7
93½	64½	Hickson†	93	+ ½	1.1	16.2
2425	2096½	Hoechst	2421½	- 3½	2.1	
1200	738½	ICI†	1124	+ 30	2.8	42.3
253	189	Inspect	242½		3.5	10.9
188½	141½	Kalon†	185		4.2	24.9
837	605	Laporte†	780		3.3	15.8
72	47	Mercian	64½		4.8	
35	31	Metreest	31½		4.2	8.0
373	320	Porvair†	371½		2.1	20.7
231	184	Scapa	187		3.9	10.1
22	16½	Suticliffe Speak	19½		7.5	8.4
1761¾	1455¼	Takeda Chem	1614¼	+ 6¼	0.4	30.4
248	221½	Victrex	235	+ ½	2.6	21.2
685	605	Wlstnhme Rt	640		5.5	
240	190	Yorks Grp	190		6.5	
385½	282½	Yule Catto†	358½	- 4	3.5	14.7

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Inds	37½	- 5		
330	230	Abbey	330		2.5	24.9
420	332½	Allen	430	+ ½	2.6	20.7
163½	114	Amec	161		4.0	15.5
710	400	Arney	710	+ 6	2.0	22.6
1025	722½	Andrews Sykes†	1007½	- 15	1.9	
261	180	Ashtead	252½		1.1	37.4
48½	28½	Aspeedet	42	- ½	4.5	
35½	26½	Band	32½	- ½	4.6	15.5
73	48½	Barcom	70		2.7	17.3
329	224	Barratt Devst	312	- 2½	3.7	13.7
232	161½	Beazer†	193½	- 1	4.4	10.9
401½	320½	Bellway	368	- 1½	3.1	12.3
25½	18½	Bellwinch	24	- ½		
95½	46½	Ben Bailey	75	- 4½	3.7	8.5
750	582½	Berkeley Gp	715½	- 6	1.7	12.6
167½	146	Bett Bros	159		5.3	9.8
300	270	Boot (Henry)	295		3.5	11.5
276½	192½	Bovis Homes	236	+ 2	4.6	11.2
139	105	Brandon Hire†	139	+ 13½	2.9	17.0
40½	30½	Brimanna Grp	40	- ½	2.8	7.6
155½	109	Bryant†	138	- 1	4.9	11.6
127½	102½	CALA	125½	- 1	3.9	7.8
4	3	Campbell & Arm	3½			
136½	83½	Clarke T	131½		6.0	9.7
37½	30	Costain	28½			
135½	97½	Countryside†	118		3.2	11.2
142	94½	Crest Nicholson†	131	- 2	3.6	11.1
118½	65½	Cussins	112½		5.1	
210	160	Eve Group	207½		3.2	15.4
22½	19½	Galliford	21		6.2	12.2
1100	1015	Glesson (MJ)	1025		3.3	15.0
175	126½	Havelock Euro	136½	- 1½	3.9	9.5
192	152	Hewden-Stuart	190½	+ ½	2.4	18.9
28	20	Howard Hldgs	22½		5.6	22.4
681	369½	Jarvis	646	- 2½	1.3	33.1
251	181	Kellert	245½		3.6	
232½	199½	Kier	219½		4.1	11.0
370½	309½	Laing (J)†	364		3.6	19.3
135	117½	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	132		6.6	
14½	8½	Lovell (YJ)	12½			
212½	155½	Maunders (J)	209½		3.8	12.1
180	133½	McAlpine (A)	170		5.7	
154½	113½	McCarthy & S	147½	- ½	2.5	13.7
110	70	McInerney	105	- 5	1.5	
229½	171½	Morgan Sindall†	207½	+ 1	3.3	12.7
397½	301	Morrison Cons	392½	- 1	1.7	22.0
127	77½	Mowlem (J)†	115½		4.3	10.6
259½	182½	Persimmon†	223½	+ ½	5.6	10.5
109½	80½	Peterhouse	100½		4.7	
120	112	Pochins†	120		2.3	13.3
149½	116	Prowting	139½		3.8	12.9
198	142½	Redrow†	171½	- 2	3.7	12.7
327½	272½	Salndert	310		1.5	17.9
94½	77½	Segn Hld	81½	- ½	4.3	14.6
142½	125½	Tay Homes†	137½		7.5	10.3
238	174	Taylor Woodrw†	225½	- 4	2.0	17.0
283½	190	Tilbury Dougst	257½		4.7	
39½	21½	Try Group†	25½		7.9	9.4
78½	63½	Vibroplant	76½		8.6	
135½	109½	Wardhomes	133½		4.4	13.8
52½	42½	Ward Hldgs	47½	- 1	6.8	6.7
272½	228½	Westbury▲	247½	- 1	3.5	12.5
15	12½	Wiggins	13½			19.8
191	139½	Wilson (C)†	189	- 1½	4.1	13.0
661	511	Wilson Bowdn	640½	- 7	2.4	13.1
140½	92½	Wimpey G†	122½	- 1	5.8	10.2

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
248½	182½	Acorn Cp Sol	247½	+ 6½	1.4	20.5
355	305	Adam & Harvey	307½	- 2½	9.2	4.6
21	4½	Alexanders	19			
2	1	Ass Br Eng	1½			59.8

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
457	360	BSS Group	380		7.3	10.8
20½	12½	Beaing Power	18½			
34½	34½	Bogod 'A'	34½		3.3	5.5
860	550	Brammer†	860	+ 5	3.3	14.7
14	10½	Bridgend Gp	14		1.8	63.9
95	79	Brit Fmags	85		7.8	
372½	345	Caffyns	365	- 5	4.5	8.4
189½	170½	Car Group	180½		3.2	17.1
160½	134½	Caverdale	144½	+ 1	3.3	8.4
54	31½	Cook (DC)	48	- ½	8.4	6.9
130½	96½	Dag Motors	130		8.8	
125½	105½	Dennans B	117½		3.2	9.2
265	217½	Diploma	243½	- 1½	7.4	9.9
555	450	Electrocomponts	555	+ 6½	1.8	29.9
186	143½	Eurotia Elec	147½		4.5	25.4
107½	84½	European Mtr	101½		7.3	7.9
305	250½	Evans Hatshert	281		7.6	9.0
64½	39½	Fle Indmart	59½	+ ½	7.8	6.7
400½	357½	Finalist Grp	374	- 1	2.7	14.9
37½	21½	Gardinert	28½		4.7	11.3
82½	60½	Glenchreston	75½	+ ½	3.4	
135½	89½	Gowringst	114½		3.8	10.9
18½	13	HR Owent	18		8.2	10.4
402	340	Heanam	380	+ 5	2.4	
160	135	Holders Techt	137½		6.1	
120	79½	ISA Intl	81		5.2	6.1
250	136½	Inchcape†	226	+ 1½	9.2	27.2
67½	57½	Jacks (Wm)	67½		4.8	8.7
536	361½	Jwit-Firt	494½	+ 13	1.6	22.2
553½	422½	Lex Servicet	553½	+ 13½	4.0	14.1
123	100	Lookers†	116½		8.9	7.9
500	351	Menzies (John)	495½	- 1	3.5	16.1
5½	4	Medlesen	4½		2.6	11.6
19½	16½	Midstate	17		3.5	
306	242	Nortam	281½	- 1½	3.8	11.8
281	207½	Northambet	211½		1.8	14.0
342	296½	Pasco	325½	- 4	3.4	
312½	249½	Pendragont	302½	- 1	4.4	14.3
242½	167½	Perry Gp	218½		5.6	
443	272	Premier Farnell	369	+ 5½	4.2	13.7
159½	119½	Quicks Groupt	146		6.6	
285	155	REA	156		2.6	
2½	1½	Reece	2			
37½	30½	Ring	32½			
12½	4½	Ronson	10½			
5½	3½	Ross Gp	4½			
112½	97½	Rybnd†	106½	- 2	5.2	8.1
31	25½	SEP Ind	27		5.8	14.0
30	16½	Saldre	18½		8.1	
53½	48	Sedgemoor	53	+ 1½	4.0	13.4
273½	226½	Synter	260		3.3	12.1
195½	167½	Time Products	177½	- 1½	8.7	7.3
210	132½	Trust Motor Grp	195	- 2	1.6	3.4
432	390	UMECO	416		3.7	22.2
124	88½	United Clests Gp	121½		0.4	27.0
299½	244½	Vardy (Reg)†	294½		3.3	13.9
800	655	WF Elect	750		2.6	23.1
157½	140	Wyko†	146	- 1½	2.8	13.7
147½	135	Young (H)	146½		3.9	10.4

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	297	Antofagast	298½	- 1½	2.4	26.1
314	229	Ascot Hldgs	311		3.7	11.9
642	522½	Brokers Hill	601	+ 3½	3.3	16.6
697½	456½	BAT†	560	+ 9½	4.6	15.2
43½	33	Brierley Inv	33		9.3	8.3
248½	167	Cookson†	237½	- 1	3.9	12.7
235½	217½	Cosalt	235½		6.0	9.3
585	410	DCC	525		1.9	19.6
383	304	Cathaert	320	- 2	7.5	9.1
450½	288	Hatch Whamp	408	+ 1	3.1	
474½	383½	Imperial Tob	439	- 8	6.1	10.8
335½	231½	Jardine Mathi	253½	- 1½	5.9	
115	74½	Lonrho	104	- 2½	5.7	19.0
575	474½	Powell Duffryn	532		8.0	13.6
147	101	Staveley	129	- 2½	8.7	16.9
368½	259	Swire Pacific	319	+ 1½	4.3	
312½	241½	TT Group	311½		3.6	11.7
364½	288	Tomkins	348	- 2	3.4	14.8
230½	207½	Unidare	230		7.1	11.7
485	415	Wardle Storeys	465		5.3	14.8
381½	301½	Wassall†	313	+ 3½	2.5	14.7
135½	121½	Whitecroft	121½	- 3	4.8	19.7

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
599	310	Br Energy	587	- 2½	3.1	55.9
873½	600	Energy Group	845	+ 3½	3.1	17.0
398	298½	National Grid	380	+ 3½	3.6	15.0
700	518½	National Power	558	+ 5	6.3	7.6
900	725	PowerGen	794	+ 4	4.2	12.0
597½	502½	Hydro-Elect	573½	- 5½	4.0	13.1
599	475	Scottish Power	542	+ 6	4.4	13.4
580	487	Southern Elec	546	- 8½	5.1	14.6
576	522	Viridian	525		3.1	36.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
360½	305	Acal	309½		4.0	10.1
1127½	690	Admiral†	1112½	- 2½	0.3	
39½	27½	Amstrad	39		1.6	
34	26½	Arlen	27½		5.5	7.2
139½	106½	Acsoc	114	- 2½	2.3	12.0
70½	43½	Adan	57½	- 1		
173½	127½	BICC	146		7.0	
75½	51½	Beales Hunter	73½		17.3	7.1
345	260	Blick	342	- ½	5.1	11.7
498½	345½	Bowthorpe†	498½	+ ½	2.8	19.0
17	12	Bulgin A	14½		6.5	17.6
205½	150½	CML Micro	191½		4.0	22.9
37½	10½	Channel Hldgs	11½	- ½	17.6	3.7
45½	36½	Chloride	43		2.0	10.3
109½	64½	Claytollie	108½		4.1	12.0
810	722½	Cozzley	802½		2.0	21.5
317½	213½	Delta†	293½		5.5	8.8
451	392	Domino	436½	- 4½	3.5	15.3
77½	64½	Dowding Mills	67½	- ½	5.9	11.5
290	240	Druck	286		0.8	30.7
5518¾	4118¾	Electrolux 'B'	5518¾	+ 198¾	1.7	
24½	17	Emess	22½		3.3	16.1
3025	2138½	Ericsson 'B'	3025	+ 184½	0.9	
388	311	Eurotherm	317½	+ 6	3.9	14.0
590	463	Farey Group	574½	- 1	2.1	16.3
587½	428	Fitronic	492½		0.4	34.0
17½	7½	Forward Tech	13	- ½	2.4	
485	338	GEC	436½	- 9½	3.8	20.2
48½	35½	Ind Control	43		1.5	
22	15	Intelek	17	- ½	7.2	
73	54½	LPA Ind	62		4.5	22.9
18	7	Microvitec	9½	+ ½	11.2	
425	435	Mitel	425			
177½	117½	Network Tech	149	+ 1½	1.0	17.3
328	255	Oxford Inst	307½	+ 1	3.1	10.8
82½	23½	Pace Micro	82½	+ 8½	3.0	
4775	3450	Philips Lmp nv	4368½	- 53½	1.1	
88½	38½	Plasmon	73½	+ 1	1.7	
345	272½	Pressac†	283½	- 8	1.9	20.7
60½	33½	Prestwick	34½	- ½	4.0	9.8
462½	284	Psion†	290	+ 2½	1.1	28.1
346	243½	Racal Elect	330		2.3	62.2
90½	51½	Radamec	59½		6.7	
421	335	Renishaw†	416½		2.7	24.4
1½	1½	Rodime	1½			
262½	191½	Roxboro†	260½		3.5	
281	202½	SDX Bus Sys	274½	+ ½	1.1	32.8
377½	244	Sevenoaks†	362½		3.3	17.8
48½	36½	Silverness†	48½	+ 1	3.7	
4793½	4128½	TDK†	4743½	+ 37½	0.6	
72½	59	TGI	64½		6.9	6.8
107½	89½	TLG	94	+ 4	5.5	11.1
62	7	Tadpole Tech	27	+ 2		
55½	38½	Telemetrix	48½		4.2	11.3
365	230	Telspec	322½	- 2½		39.5
150½	122½	Thorpe FW†	143		4.0	7.8
157½	70½	Total Systems	134½	- ½	1.3	29.1
125	100	Tunstall	120½		5.4	16.9
111	66½	Verity	103½	- 3½	0.1	
125½	84½	Verolt	114½		8.3	
40½	30½	Vigtlen Technology†	31		1.6	
523	460	Volex	522	+ 1½	5.1	14.3

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
280	242½	ABA	245		3.8	11.5
44	28½	ASW	30	- ½		
255	145	Alumasc†	175		6.1	8.0
161	129½	Alvis	150½		2.9	19.2
172½	159½	Ash & Lacy†	172½	+ 11	5.6	
125	70	Ayrshire Metal	70		9.8	3.9
460½	345½	BBA†	430½	- 2	1.9	17.6
212½	150	BTR†	206½	+ 10½	4.7	11.9
87½	68½	BRI	84		4.9	9.3
85½	61	Babcock	69		2.3	
7½	6½	Bailey (CH)	7½	+ ½	4.0	
99	77	Baynes (Charles)†	95	- 2	4.2	13.5
27½	12	Beaulord	13	- ½	8.0	
44	27	Benson Group	42½	- ½	4.4	40.2
230½	181½	Bensford	219		3.2	12.6
97½	84	Bestle Cv Un Ln	94½	+ ½	5.3	
1180	867½	Bodycote	1050	- 30	1.2	23.9
44½	38½	Booth Inds	38½			
20½	15½	Brasway	17½		6.4	7.9
141	117½	Bridport	121½	- 2	4.9	13.6
2090	1525	Br Aerospace†	1950		1.3	21.2
157	122½	Br Steel	145	+ ½	8.6	13.2
156½	136½	Brooke Inds	140		4.5	7.7
16½	11½	Brunel	11½		5.3	5.4
102½	92½	Bullough	94		7.7	9.7
36	29	Carco	29	- ½	5.2	
217½	167½	Carclo Eng	167½	- 4	8.0	10.0
225	193½	Castings	213½		3.1	12.3
300	190	Charmbrke Hill	195		5.2	8.8
750	570	Charter†	654	- 1	4.8	21.3
155½	110½	Chemring	153½	+ 7	2.4	
275	236	Clyde Blowers	251		3.5	54.4
1050	732½	Cosmam	1047½	+ 2½	1.6	27.2
430	400	Cohen (A)	410			
119½	107½	Concentric	116½	- 1	7.8	24.1
220½	184½	David Brown	201		5.4	12.0
325	282½	EIS	318½	- ½	5.3	10.9
20½	16	Eloco	20			8.1
108½	72½	Elson (B)	107½		3.7	14.3
155½	124½	Expamet	153		3.1	14.7
208	147½	FKI	193	+ 2½	3.5	17.6
195½	167½	Fenner	189	- 1	2.8	15.0
2½	1½	Ferrom	1½			
40	29	Firth Hldgs	34½		0.9	25.7
154½	126½	Firth Rixson	146½		2.4	17.9
45½	27½	Flare	29½		4.2	2.6
104	61½	GEI Intl	99		5.7	10.1
196½	148½	Garton Eng	196½	+ 10½	5.2	
297½	216½	Glynwed	289	- 1	5.9	11.3
137½	92½	Hadens MacLn	137½	+ 1½	2.9	14.0
230	185	Hadleigh	192	- 1½	4.6	9.1
240	160	Hall Eng	234		4.6	
126½	99½	Halma	118		2.6	16.0
73½	64½	Hampson Ind	68		4.6	13.9
55	32½	Hay (Norman)	51½		2.5	
54½	40½	Holbroyd	43½		4.6	5.8
70½	42½	Hill & Smith	64½	- 1½	8.3	16.3
104½	65½	How Gp	97½		3.6	
243½	210½	Hunting†	241½		3.8	12.4
461½	376	IMI	422	- 3	3.3	13.8
632½	467½	Johnson Mattn	583½	- 3	2.7	14.2
28½	23½	Jones Shipman	23½		8.0	9.7
420	390	Kelsey Ind	390		9.0	6.7
385	297½	Lincat	372½	+ 1½	3.6	11.8
32½	23½	Locker (T)	24	+ ½	5.2	8.8
27½	16½	MS Intl	19½		3.9	
460	403½	Mang Bronzt	442½		2.8	18.3
498½	377½	Mckechnie	476½	+ 1½	4.6	13.2
167½	156½	McLeod Russel	156½		5.6	11.4
211	154½	Meggitt	194		3.0	20.9
99	82½	Melrose	97		5.5	
14½	11½	Metaltech	14½			
178½	142½	Metrot	169		3.8	
357½	247½	Molins†	275½		6.8	
472½	302½	Morgan Cruc†	428½	+ 4	4.5	13.6
55½	53	Neeztand	54		4.6	11.7
57½	49½	Polyfiedron	50½		9.8	6.8
608½	182	Powerscreen	219	- 2½	6.0	5.7
209½	157½	Quadramatic	157½		7.9	8.1
50	26½	Quadrant Grp	28½			
60	50	Radiant Metal	60			
261½	232½	Renold	232½		3.6	9.4
85	73	Richardson West	80		8.6	6.8
301½	188	Rolls-Royce	274	+ 1½	2.7	20.4
357	269	Rotork†	356		3.3	
220	140	Rubicon	199		3.9	14.2
1200	1153½	SKF 'B'	1175		3.4	
207½	139½	Select Eng	203½	- ½	2.1	19.7
612½	461½	Senior Plc	565	+ 2½	2.2	
1496	975	Siebe	1235	- 20	1.2	22.1
132½	114½	Sm. Hosford	125		5.6	8.8
950½	702	Smiths Ind†	837½	+ 14½	2.8	18.8
18½	11½	Sofvera	11½		2.6	
630	542½	Spirax-Sarco†	602½	- 12½	3.1	15.7
326½	262½	Sterling Ind	306	- ½	4.2	11.1

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
148½	123	Adwest	135		5.8	10.5
160	150	Airflow Stream	152½		6.8	11.0
685	617	Avon Rubber	685	+ 3½	3.3	15.4
345	305	Bostrom	305		3.0	
181½	114½	Britax	158½		2.5	17.5
312½	251½	Dewhs	295		3.9	13.6
376½	277½	First Tech	370	- 1½	1.4	25.9
1685	1062½	GKN†	1584	+ 54	1.9	20.2
4487½	3418¾	General Mtr	4031¼	+ 53¼	3.0	
525	414½	Healeyst	518½		4.0	13.1
2326¼	1991¼	Honda Motor	2119¼	+ 45¼	0.4	
480	384½	Laird	412	- 2½	3.5	10.9
260	194	LucasVarity	258	+ 1½	2.2	15.5
229½	158½	Mayflower	222½		1.6	21.6
127½	99½	Sylone	117½		6.9	9.7
261	252½	T & N	259		4.4	15.0
34½	24½	Toad#	31½			
42½	36½	Witchaw	40		2.7	10.8

(The first two rows of the table below, headed by the TI and Tinsley (E) rows, appear above Engineering, Vehicles in the same column.)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
600	424	TI	537	- 4	3.5	16.8
106½	89½	Tinsley (E)	95		8.2	8.8
87½	64½	Transtec	79½	- 3	4.3	
277½	270	Triplex Lloyd	277½		3.2	18.8
417	347½	Ultra Elect	380½	- 4½	2.4	18.6
68	55½	Utd Inds	56½		5.9	7.9
242½	198	Vickers†	236½		3.8	14.6
10½	7½	Villiers Grp	10			
703	584	Vitec	686	- 2½	2.6	12.8
807½	740	Vosper Thorny	789½		4.3	11.9
320	280	Wagon Ind	308½	+ 1	4.9	13.7
314½	222½	Weir†	277½		4.1	12.9
172½	137½	Wellington Hdgt	162½		6.4	
81½	55	Wescol	76½	- 1	2.6	16.8
835	750	Whessoe†	824		2.4	21.6
59½	42½	Widney	58		7.4	18.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	530	AB Food	626	+ 13½	2.0	20.0
270	215	Acatos & Hutch	231		5.7	24.4
37	24½	Albert Fisher	29½		14.3	7.7
286	195	Banks (S C)	195		7.4	7.1
500	417	Barr (AG)	497½		4.3	
44½	34	Bensons Crsp	37		5.3	7.9
360	209	Booker	256	+ 1	12.5	10.7
845	571½	Brake Bros	834½		1.7	
103½	85	CPL Aromas	96½		6.2	27.8
885½	600	Cadbury-Schwt	880	+ 28	2.0	23.7
262	150	Carrs Milling	150		9.6	5.1
114½	70½	Cavaghan	114½		4.1	19.7
258½	234½	Claresjack	256½		5.1	12.2
386½	253	Dairy Crest Group	357½		3.5	15.1
379	273½	Dalgety	365	- 1½	3.3	
67	37½	Daniels St	55	+ ½	1.1	18.1
522	375	Devro†	522	+ 13½	2.3	22.1
129	99	Finlay (James)	124		3.6	22.8
515	404	Geest	506	- 1½	2.5	
13½	8½	Global	13½	+ ½	6.7	16.7
360	285	Greencore	360	+ 26	2.4	19.8
211½	164½	Hazlewood Fds	200	- 3½	4.4	14.4
185	142	Hillsdown	175	- 3	7.1	10.5
410	392	Linton Park	394		5.1	8.5
100	86	Matthews (B)†	96	+ 2½	5.6	14.7
224½	205½	Nichols (V)†	210		4.7	
240	182	Nthn Foods	194½	+ 1	5.4	13.0
20	16	Nntmbn Fn	16½		1.5	8.6
112½	89½	Paramount Foodst	102½		6.3	
57	50	Pascoe's	50			54.7
147½	103½	Perkins Food	133		3.5	
63½	69½	Plant & Gen	82		2.4	
92	60	Senlry Farm	66	+ 1	6.0	
34½	23½	Sims Food	25½			2.7
583	450	Tate & Lyle	564½	- 9	3.3	13.0
151	116	Treath†	121½	+ 1½	5.2	13.4
738½	581½	Unigate	722	- 5½	3.6	17.4
655	348½	Unilever	630	- 1	1.7	31.0
4737½	3500	Unilever (NV)	4509½	- 93½	1.5	12.7
280	216½	Utd Biscuit†	250	- ½	5.2	17.8
62½	44½	WT Foods	57		3.3	21.9

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
442½	318½	Alnco UniChem	415	- 1½	2.7	32.0
185	135	Assoc Nursg	165	+ 1	2.9	26.0
890	693	Bespak	890		1.8	25.5
525	115	Biocompts Intl	151	- 8		
159½	144	Care UK	159½		1.0	18.5
88½	28½	Celsis	32½	+ 1		
530	389½	Community Ht	520		2.9	19.0
32	29½	CrestaCare†	30½		4.1	14.5
18	7½	Enviromed	15			
164½	122½	Ferraris Group	152		2.8	14.2
169½	144½	Gyrus	159½			
171½	141	Huntigh Tec	148½	- 1½	2.5	18.7
138½	97½	Innovative Tech	111½	- 2		
95	68	Intercare Gp†	81		5.3	44.8
580	495	Isotron†	535		1.5	19.1
191½	150	Lon Intl	191	+ ½	1.8	25.6
242½	190½	Nestor Hlth†	242½	+ 11½	2.0	26.0
2750	2050	Nycomed Amsdrt	2130	- 25	1.1	23.6
5½	5½	Premier Health#	5½			
11	6½	Regola	8½			
367½	255½	Scholl†	365		2.9	20.2
629½	501½	Seton Health	621½		1.8	24.3
810	587½	Shield Diag	592½	- 22½		
230	198½	Sinclair Mont	224	+ 1		48.7
194	150	Smith & Neph	171	+ 2	3.7	15.4
2½	2	Tamaris	2½		4.1	17.2
412½	362½	West Hlthcare	405		2.7	18.4

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
152½	132½	Airsprung	133½		6.0	8.6
196	165½	Albart	189½	- 1½	4.1	10.8
85	55	Albion	67		6.2	7.0
140½	120½	Alexander W	134½		6.0	12.5
187½	124	Allied Textile	160½	- 1½	8.6	10.5
18½	13½	Amaport	16½		5.7	40.4
205	157	BLP Group	179		5.4	6.3
285½	208	Baird (Wm)	256	- 3	5.2	12.9
53½	50	Bilston Blasses	52½		3.6	27.2
149½	97½	Black Arrow	110	+ 1½	4.9	9.1
421½	391½	Black (Peter)†	411½	+ ½	2.0	19.2
94½	76	Brtish Mohair†	85		5.8	73.3
88½	47½	Claremont Garments	55		18.5	
100	81½	Coats Viyella	95		5.0	33.7
182½	146	Cornwell Pkr Srt	159		2.6	12.7
368	313	Courtaulds Text†	339	- 2½	5.6	13.0
33½	25½	Creighton	27½			
13½	7½	Dallyem	8½		10.9	
68½	48	Dawson†	56	+ 3½	8.0	8.1
157½	134½	Denby Group	135	- 3½	4.2	10.0
257½	230	Dewhirst	250½	- ½	2.7	15.2
33	17	Dinlos Heelt	22		9.1	
37	15½	Drummond Group	15½		16.1	4.1
122½	107½	Eclipse Blinds†	117½		3.8	
42	29	Elol1	31		4.8	6.5
131½	95	FII Group†	97½		5.1	7.4
34	30½	Faupel Trading	31½		8.7	6.4
10½	4	Foster (J)	4½			
44½	39	French	39½		5.0	
502½	377½	Gaskell	466½	+ 1½	2.3	8.9
78½	62	Haggas (J)†	64½		8.7	12.5
11½	8½	Hartstone Group	10½		5.6	28.6
257½	220½	Hedeng Pentecost	221½		4.3	12.5
4	2½	Hollas Group	3½			
18½	10½	Honeysuckle Group	14			
84	62½	Horace Small	79½	+ 2½		
332½	260	HWP Ind	332½		1.9	14.9
25½	12½	Jacques Vert	12½			
50½	37½	Jerome (S) & Sons	44		8.9	10.7
320	290	Jones Stroud	298½		4.7	12.7
59½	47½	Jourdan (T)	58½	- ½	3.2	
134	95	Kenwood App	97½	- 1		
245	200	Lambert Howarth†	221	- 1½	4.8	9.8
152	135	Lamont Hldgs	139		13.3	9.1
123	94	Leeds Group	95	- 3½	9.2	6.0
17	8½	Leslie Wise†	16		11.7	
16	12½	Lionheart†	15½		3.2	12.5
90	68	Lyles (S)	87		3.6	8.7
210	173	McBride†	205½	- 1	2.3	15.0
132½	103½	Maybom†	115½		6.7	8.1
575	550	Osborne & Little	560		4.7	11.1
4½	2½	PEX Group▲	4½			7.8
126	60	Parkland Group	63	- 1½	8.8	
475	435	Pearson Zcht	467½		4.7	10.3
420	375	Paterson Zch 'A'†	416½		4.3	9.2
129	109½	Pentland Group	119½	+ 2½	3.9	16.7
210	185	Pecot	205		4.0	10.4
303	185	Peco 'A' Vigt	192		4.2	9.7
60½	47½	Pittards†	50		8.8	11.1
49½	38	Readicut Intl	41½		7.7	12.2
1250	852	Reckitt Colmn	1250	- 25	1.9	22.3
595	430½	Reynos†	580		3.1	18.7
36	25½	Richards	36½		9.4	
214½	174½	Royal Doulton†	201	-	6.2	
32½	20	SEET	28½	+ 1		
45½	25	Sherwood Group	41½	- ½	11.5	10.5
110½	89½	Shilon	90½		5.5	6.3
285	265	Silentnight	265		4.9	11.5
70½	52½	Sirdar†	68		10.2	8.6
41½	32½	Stirling Group	38½		8.0	6.6
16½	7½	Stoddard	8½		11.4	16.1
252½	203½	Stoves	203	- 1	3.7	13.3
278½	211½	Swallowfield	262½		3.8	12.6
208½	155	Tomkinsons	184		7.8	10.0
9½	3½	UK Safety	3½			
142	134	Usher (F)	137		10.0	7.0
80	70	Vectora	71		4.4	11.3
150	117½	Vymura†	147½		4.6	10.4
62½	40	Walker Greenbk	57½	- 1	8.4	
100½	80	Whitec Wogsrd	93½	- ½	1.9	25.4
67½	60½	Wensum	62½		10.0	5.4
195	195	Wood (Arthur)†	195		4.5	12.3
140	89½	Yorklyde	90	+ ½	7.1	

INSURANCE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4009¾	3250	Am Gen	3937½	- 78½	2.3	
128	108	Angersen	127½		15.3	9.9
64½	53½	Bracknan	61	+ 3	11.7	8.2
1364	1102½	Brannoct	1266½	+ 12½	3.3	8.5
159½	129	CLM Insce	158½		8.7	12.4
275½	262½	Charles Taylor	274½		3.1	20.4
1280	707	Com Unionst	1280	+ 59	2.5	24.7
355½	271	Cox Insce	349½		1.5	25.9
550	495	Dom & Gent	542½		2.3	13.9
159	112	Euclidian	155	+ 1½	12.1	19.2
438½	303	FBD IE	438½		2.1	
162	146½	Finsbury Undert	161		10.2	12.9
1572	837	Gen Accident	1548	+ 21	3.1	10.5
495	325	GRE	440	+ 8	3.6	6.7
666	441½	Hiberman IE	663½		1.6	12.8
205	157	Hiscox	190		2.6	20.9
155	143	Hogg Select	155		2.3	14.3
1800	1145	Independent	1707½	+ 17½	1.2	17.0
572½	342½	Inch Udet	563½	+ 5	2.4	
187	151½	Jardine Lyd Pt	179	+ 1	3.2	
143½	107	Kiln Capital	141½		3.5	47.1
116½	100½	Lampert Fin	105		12.0	7.4
785	532	Legal & Genl	746	+ 6	2.1	18.9
2181½	1421½	Liberty Udet	2165¾	- 6½	1.2	30.0
184½	145	Lmtt	179	- 1	4.6	10.9
527½	493½	Londn & Manr	546	- 2½	6.6	22.4
5506¾	4321¾	Marsh McLn	5325½	- 75	1.3	
113	100	Maxtrest	110½		15.5	
87	81	New London Cap	83		9.0	12.4
558	385	Norwich Union	481	- 8	3.1	18.8
131½	102½	Oxhem	129		4.5	
110½	81½	Oto	97½		7.4	57.6
135	117	Premium Trst	135		2.2	27.1
1000	720	Prudential†	947½	- 24½	2.0	22.4
30½	17½	PWS	30		2.7	4.4

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
825	590	Royal & Sun All	782½	+ 4½	2.9	19.8
292½	167½	St James Place†	284½		0.7	33.4
169½	132	Sedgwick†	160	- 1	4.4	12.6
29	22½	Steel Burrill†	25		7.5	
645	434½	Sun Life & P	596	+ 36	2.5	34.1
136	110	Syndicate Cap	133		8.7	10.4
625	521½	Utd Assurance	604½	- 1	4.4	13.9
169½	147½	Wellington	159	- ½	3.8	10.9
166	128½	Willis Corroon	163½	- ½	5.0	13.2
16	11½	Windsor	14½		5.2	
610	490	3i	605	+ 3	2.0	35.3
65	51½	Aberdeen Emg Ec	62			
123½	96½	Aberdeen High Inc	121	- 1	6.9	18.0
133	84	Aberdn New Dawn	117	+ ½	1.8	47.5
237	206½	Aberforth Smlr	234	- ½	3.8	26.1
139½	116	Aberfoth Sm Wts	139			
3022½	2466	Alliance†	2968½	+ 9	2.5	45.4
700½	584	Anglo & O'seas†	693½	+ 1	1.9	62.4
74½	67½	Aust Opps	69½		0.4	
57	50½	Baillie Giord Shi	55			
289½	239½	Bankers	284	+ ½	2.4	46.0
110½	65½	Baring Em Eu	106	- ½		
607	468½	Baring Tribnt	606	+ 10	1.7	67.0
140½	114½	Br Assets	140		4.3	26.1
122	106	Br Empire Sec	117½	- ½	1.1	63.8
81½	52½	Baxziton	81½	- ½		
372½	313	Brunner	372½	+ 1	2.2	38.5
110	110	BZW Conv#	110		8.9	
90½	74½	Caimgorm Domf	85½		1.3	
987½	737½	Candover	868½	- 1½	2.9	
68½	58½	Central Euro Gwth	63			
478½	384	Cart Euro	474		1.6	
190	168	City Merch HYt	189		6.1	15.5
280½	230	City Of Lon	277½	+ 1	3.0	38.1
347	294	Contl Assets	345	+ 1	0.7	
77½	74½	Daras Inv Inc	75½		13.7	9.7
835	530	Derby Cap	832½			
138½	127½	Derby Inc	129½		18.8	4.0
220½	174½	Dunedn Inc Gt	207½		3.8	32.8
408½	335½	Dunedn Smlr	408½	+ 1½	3.1	34.7
218	170	Dunedn Wrde	217½	+ 1	1.2	
282½	245	EIBC#	276½		0.2	
60½	43	Edin Dragon	55½			
29½	24½	Edinburgh Inca	29½			
519	413½	Edinburgh IT	504½		2.7	40.2
105	81½	Edin Japan	89½	+ 2½		
519½	424½	Edin US Trst	510	+ 1	1.0	
615½	527	Electra Inv	615½	+ 3½	2.8	43.4
186½	157	Eng & Scot	185½	- ½	2.3	40.1
29½	25½	Enl Cap	27			
519½	374	European Assett	511	+ 1	0.9	
70½	47½	Fidity Asian Val	64½			
350½	277½	Fidity Euro Valt	346	+ 4½	0.2	
32½	25	Fidity Jap Val	29½	+ ½		
158	135½	Fidity Spec Val	157		1.1	78.4
250½	217½	Finsbury 'A'	250½		1.9	68.2
223	173	Finsbury Gwth	213½		2.0	59.8
155½	130	Five Arr Chile	145	- 2½	1.7	75.8
18½	2½	Five Arr Wts	3½			
642½	513½	Fleming Amer	626	+ 1	0.4	
64	44½	Fleming Asian	59			
12½	6½	Fleming Asian Wts	10½			
64½	44½	Fleming Chinese	57	+ ½		
27½	14	Fleming Ch Wts	19½			
507½	401½	Fleming Claver	490½		1.7	68.0
640½	471	Fleming Contl	636½	+ 3½	0.8	
129	100½	Fleming Em Mkts	126½	+ 1	0.4	
352	271	Fleming Entp	345		1.9	51.4
485	371½	Fleming Fledgt	484		0.3	
407½	307	Flem Grt Gth Ord	407	+ 1	0.8	
161½	152	Flem Grt Gth Prf	161½		10.0	
132	103	Fleming Inc Cap	131½		5.5	25.0
111½	105½	Fleming Inc Inc	109		11.4	18.1
350½	246½	Fleming Ing Cap	349	- ½		
47½	39½	Fleming Italian	47½			
12½	8½	Fleming In Wts	10½			
167½	131	Fleming Japan	144	+ 3½		
439	364½	Fleming Mercl	432	- ½	2.8	
83½	70½	Fleming Nat Rest	83	+ ½	0.3	
413½	350½	Fleming Oseas	405½	+ 2	1.4	
183	148½	Fleming Smitr Co	183	+ ½	3.1	53.2
203½	168	Foreign & Colt	197½	- ½	1.4	69.1
123½	97	F&C Inc Gwth	117		3.8	32.5
107½	93½	F&C Emg Mkts	98½	+ ½		
266½	185	F&C Enterprset	256½	+ 1½	1.9	55.5
487½	361½	F&C Eurolst	486½	+ 3½	0.3	
198½	150½	F&C German	198½	+ 1½	0.4	
131	99½	F&C Pacific	113½		2.0	55.1
178½	144½	F&C PEP	178		3.2	38.9
203½	177	F&C Smaller	203½	+ ½	1.7	59.5
172	144½	F&C US Smlr	168	+ ½		
64½	60½	Framlin Inct	63½		10.1	
156	109½	Framlin Cap	154½			
271½	133½	Framl Dual Cp	271½	+ 1½		
58½	38½	Fulcrum Cap	58½		64.6	2.0
22½	17½	Fulcrum Inc	18½			
191½	188	Fulcrum Zero	190½		3.6	
319½	270½	Gartmore Brit	318½		0.6	
329½	242½	Gartmore Euro	325½	+ 1½	0.6	
154½	110	Gartmore Shrd	154½		7.6	16.0
435	345½	G'more Smll Cost	435	+ 3	1.7	64.2
74½	52½	Geared Inc Ord	73		8.4	9.4
58½	51½	Geared Inc Inc	57		10.7	7.3
103	59½	Gov Asn Sm Cost	94		0.7	
90½	70½	Gov Eng Mks	85½	+ ¼	0.6	
183½	151½	Govett Am Smlr	181½			
97½	81½	Govett High Inct	96½		7.3	16.6
108½	80½	Govett Oriental	99½	+ ½	0.8	
465	379½	Govett Strategic	464		2.0	43.9
31½	19½	Gresham House	31½		1.0	1.9
146½	119	GT Inc Growth	141½	- ½	2.9	48.6
180½	136½	GT Japan	144½	+ 1½	0.3	
151½	114½	Gurr Ft Ex Inc	151½	+ 7	6.8	
76	61	Henderson Am Cp	74½	- ½		
120½	116½	Henderson Am In	118		8.3	15.4
43½	29	Henderson Am Wt	42½	- ½		
350½	281½	Hend Elec Gen	340½	+ 1	1.4	79.2
132½	101	Hend Far East	103½		8.2	14.8
577½	452	Hend Gmlnvr	570		1.7	71.5
172	151½	Hend High Inct	167½		6.0	22.8
42½	30½	Hend Jap Smllt	36½	+ ½		
276½	219	Hend Smlr	276½	+ ½	1.8	66.6
620½	495	Hend Strata	620	+ ½	0.1	
69½	51	Hend TR Pact	58½		0.5	
117½	88½	Hend Tech	109½	+ ½		
181½	135½	Hexalot	181		0.6	
124½	105½	High Income Tt	119	+ ½	7.1	14.9
162	140	H Govett Smlr	161½		2.3	57.2
176½	139½	I&S UK Smlr	176		2.1	70.4
213½	180	Inv Cap	211½	- ½	3.4	31.9
97	67½	Int Biotech	71½	+ 2½		
20	7½	Int Biotec Wt	8			
73	70	Int Biotec C	74			
59½	38	INVESCO Asia	52½	+ ½	1.6	64.2
210½	175½	INVESCO Eng Int	208		0.8	
36½	25½	INVESCO Jap Dis	29			
49½	30	INVESCO Korea	39½			
33½	23½	INVESCO Tokyo	27			
107½	83½	JF Fledg Jap	87½	+ 1		
197	135	J Fry Euro Ut	196½		3.6	
107½	65½	J Fry Lmrir	107½		6.6	12.7
98½	79½	J Fry Ubl Inct	87½	- ½	8.0	63.5

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	121½	Jupiter Ex Inc	149½		6.6	18.9
40½	19½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	28½			
105	91	Jupiter Grd Cap	104½	+ ½	9.6	12.9
50	44	Jupiter Grd Ptd	50			
150½	135½	Jupiter Intl Grnt	150		3.4	
98½	73½	Kmd E Mkt	97½			
176½	164½	Kleinwt End	176½			
156	118	Kleinwt H Inc	156		9.3	15.8
223	170½	Kleinwt Smlrt	223	+ ½	1.5	
201½	89	Korea—Euro	177½	- ½	0.7	
132	113	Latin American	125	- ½		
1270½	1077½	Law Debenture†	1252½	- 1½	2.8	34.8
120	113½	Lde Oil Opp	114½			
150½	124½	Lloyds Sm Cap	150	+ ½		
22	17½	Lloyds Sm Dvrt	18½		29.0	
168	143	Lloyds Sm Plgt	168		3.2	
206½	173½	Lon St Lawrence†	205½	+ 1	3.9	31.9
414½	341½	Lowland	410	- ½	3.5	35.1
812½	787½	M&G 3rd Dual Cp#	800			
51½	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50			1.6
98	75½	M&G Inc Geared†	98	+ ½	7.7	17.6
73½	54	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	73½			
28½	22½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	23½			4.0
182	159½	M&G Inc Packaget	182	+ ½	4.1	32.6
80½	77½	M&G Inc Zero Div	78½			
69½	31	M&G Rec Cap	69½			
92½	53½	M&G Rec Geared†	92		7.3	17.7
28	22½	M&G Rec Inct	25½		26.7	4.8
198	160	M&G Rec Packet	195½		3.4	37.7
111½	109½	M&G Res Zero Div	110½			
212½	169½	M Currie Euro	210½		0.5	
84½	64½	M Currie Japan	71½	+ 1½		
125½	100½	M Currie Pac	109½	+ 1½	2.2	
354	292½	Majedie	353½	+ ½	2.4	53.7
432	355	Merchants	419½	+ 2½	4.3	
164½	132	Mercury Euro Pv	162½	+ 1	1.7	46.8
81½	50½	Mercury Eur Wt	81½	+ ½		
69	57½	Mercury Worldt	68½	- ½	1.5	74.7
1	...	Mercury Wld Wts				
807½	677½	Monks Inv Tst	801		1.5	64.9
200½	180	Morg Gren Inc	199	+ ½	4.3	27.9
96	80	Morg Wts	94	+ ½		
82	70	Morg Lat Amer	77	+ ½	0.5	
32½	22½	Morg Wts	30			
128½	110½	Murray Inc	127	- ½	3.1	43.5
22½	10	Murray Ent Wts	21½			
69½	53½	Murray Emg Eco	68½	+ ½	1.0	
11½	7½	Murray Em Ec Wt	8½			
528½	448	Murray Incmet	518	+ ½	3.5	37.1
494½	431½	Murray Intl†	488½	- ½	3.6	32.4
208½	205½	Murray S/C DP	208½			
385	270	Murray S/C Cap	383½	+ 1		
64½	58½	Murray S/C Inc	60		25.3	4.8
5050	4350	Murray S/C Ut	4975		3.1	
427½	340	Murray Small	425½	+ 4	1.8	54.8
406½	379½	Murray Vent	386½	- ½	4.9	23.1
389	271½	Natwest Ent	286	- 1½	2.2	44.1
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½			
56½	34½	Pacific Assets	45		1.1	
118½	83	Perpetual Euro	116½	- ½	0.5	
156½	125	Perp Inc Gth	146	- 1	3.3	43.7
37	27½	Perpetual Jap	31½	+ ½		
377½	322½	Perpl Uk Sm Cot	377½		2.3	48.2
£200½	£168	Personal Assets	£200		1.5	
148½	130½	Prolific Inct	148	+ ½	3.7	31.3
339½	270	RIT Cap Ptnr	339½	+ ½	0.7	
545½	516½	Robeco	526½		2.0	
553	524	Rolinco	533½		0.8	
59½	37½	Schrd Asia Pac	54½	+ ½	1.2	
70½	56½	Schrod Emg Cat	68	+ ½		
185½	142	Schrod Inc Grwt	163	- ½	3.8	29.3
61½	48	Schrod Jap Grwt	54½	+ 3		
282½	152	Schrod Korea	184	- ½		
79	43½	Schrod Split Cap	78½			
135	114½	Schrod Split Inc	129	- 2	8.5	
160	154½	Schrod Split Zero	154½			
174½	142	Schrod UK Gwth	169		2.6	45.7
181½	165½	Schrod Vent Ind	180	+ ½	1.2	
379½	311	Scot	374	+ 1	2.1	59.5
233	183½	Scot American	230½	+ ½	2.9	40.2
144½	91½	Scot Asian	137	+ ½		
134½	110½	Scot Eastern	132½	+ 1½	1.9	
390	316½	Scot Mtge	388½	+ 1½	1.7	56.7
104	100½	Scot Nat Tst	103½		10.1	10.8
140½	113½	Scot Value	137½		1.8	28.8
2658½	2168½	Second Allnce	2617½	+ 3½	2.8	49.0
131½	112½	Secs Tst of Scot	130½	+ ½	3.8	36.3
186	149½	Shires Smlr	185	+ 1	4.2	39.2
184½	133½	Smaller Cost	181½		2.6	
386	353	St Andrew Invt	376½		3.3	36.8
602	484	Temple Bar	585½	+ 1½	4.1	29.7
96½	62½	Throgmorton	96½		3.1	42.5
128½	102½	Tplton Emg Mkt	122½	+ ½	1.1	71.6
227½	167½	TR Euro Growth	222½	+ 2½	0.5	
48½	44½	TR Property	48½		2.7	33.9
412½	374	TR Tech Inv	407½	+ ½	11.7	32.6
333½	273	Turkey Trust	315½	+ 2	1.4	
159½	148½	Undervalued Ast	155	+ ½	1.9	62.6
162½	132	Value Inc Tst	161½	+ 1	3.6	33.6
131½	102½	Value Real	130½	- ½	0.8	65.5
51½	40½	Warrants & Val	51½	+ ½		
103½	87½	Wigmore	101	- ½	1.9	
385½	310½	Witan	377	+ 1	2.3	46.6
74½	66½	Yeoman Inc	69		4.1	4.4

LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29½	11	ABI Leis#	13½		15.1	
512½	405½	Airtours	482	- 4	1.7	24.1
30	23½	Ald Leis	29	+ 1½	4.5	9.0
21	16	Arena Leis	17½			
155	120	BS Group	122	+ 2	5.3	
130	110	Baldwin†	125	- 5	4.0	
120	82	Bluebird Toys	112		10.7	
800	667½	Boosey Hwks	730		1.7	
33½	27½	Burndene	29½		8.7	7.5
159½	98½	Capital Corpn	98½	- 1½	6.7	
83½	55	Chrysalist	72½	- 2	3.4	16.5
109½	70½	Clubhaus	98½	- 1½		36.1
290	223	Eurocamp†	290	+ 1	5.4	12.2
95	67	Euro Disney	93½	+ 1		
138½	120½	Euro Leisuret	136	+ 7½	3.8	8.6
173½	100	First Choice	146½	- 5	2.4	51.0
340	268½	First Leisure	332½	- 2½	3.4	18.9
145½	110½	Friendly Hotels†	138½		5.3	
1172	837	Granada	1090	+ 25	1.7	22.4
47½	37½	H-Tec Sports†	39½		6.3	7.6
289	207½	Holmes Place†	270	- ½	1.4	
282½	165½	Hornby	218½		3.7	10.8
370	310	Hozelock	333½	- ½	4.2	17.7
212½	148	Jarvis Hotels	179½	- 2	3.1	11.5
525½	351½	Jurys Hotel	512½	- 8½	1.6	24.6
35	24½	Kunick	30½	- ½	3.1	15.8
370	250	Ladbroke	318½	- 5	2.8	23.2
238½	163½	London Clubs	180	+ 4	5.7	13.0
257½	182½	Macdonald Hts	241½	+ 1½	2.4	18.1
161½	130½	Man Utd	133½	- 1	1.5	21.4
59½	34½	Mandarin Orntl	46½	- ½	4.5	
559	418½	Millennium & Copt	556	+ 1½	1.9	21.5
1½	1	Millwall Hldgs	1			
102½	77½	Newcastle Utdt	94½	+ 1	2.1	10.2
600	400½	Northern	577½	- 3½	1.7	35.1
74½	59½	Prism Leisure	60		14.3	4.1
25½	19½	Queensborough	24½		2.1	9.4
26	12½	Queens Moat	21½	- 1		4.8
420	283½	Rank Grpt	400	+ 5	5.6	15.5
49	38½	Regal Hotels	44		3.6	
75½	50½	Ryan Hotels IE	72½		3.0	15.2
1900	1175	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1567½		1.7	25.5
51½	32½	Shefield Unied	35			

BRITISH FUNDS

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
116⅛	116	Treas 4⅝% 1998	116⅛	+ ⅛	3.96	7.25
100½	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.66
102⅝	100⅜	Treas 14% 1998-01	100⅝	- ⅛	13.89	7.01
105⅝	103⅞	Treas 15½% 1998	103⅞	- ⅛	14.94	6.98
104⅞	102⅞	Exch 12% 1998	102⅞	- ⅛	11.66	6.94
102½	101⅛	Treas 9½% 1999	101⅛		9.32	6.89
105⅞	104⅞	Exch 12¼% 1999	104⅞	- ⅛	11.68	6.84
104⅞	103⅞	Treas 10½% 1999	103⅞	- ⅛	10.10	6.77
99⅛	98⅝	Treas 6% 1999	99⅛		6.05	6.61
106⅛	105⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅛	- ⅛	9.72	6.62
105⅛	104⅛	Cnv 9% 2000	104⅛	- ⅛	8.63	6.53
104⅛	103⅛	Treas 8% 2000	103⅛		7.70	6.53
103⅛	102⅛	Treas 8½% 2000	102⅛	- ⅛	8.23	6.55
114⅛	113⅛	Treas 13% 2000	113⅛	- ⅛	11.47	6.52
109⅛	108⅛	Treas 10% 2001	109⅛	- ⅛	9.15	6.36
102⅛	101⅛	Treas 7% 2001	102⅛	+ ⅛	6.83	6.19
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
103⅛	101⅛	Treas 7% 2002	103⅛	- ⅛	6.77	8.88
112⅛	112⅛	Treas 9¾% 2002	112⅛	- ⅛	8.57	6.11
108⅛	106⅛	Treas 8% 2003	108⅛	- ⅛	7.35	5.87
118⅛	116⅛	Treas 10% 2003	118⅛	- ⅛	8.46	5.98
114⅛	113	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅛	- ⅛	10.13	6.32
93⅛	90⅛	Fund 3½% 1999-04	93⅛	- ⅛	3.75	4.76
119⅛	116⅛	Conv 9½% 2004	119⅛	- ⅛	7.98	5.92
104⅛	101⅛	Treas 6¾% 2004	104⅛	+ ⅛	6.44	5.85
116⅛	113⅛	Conv 9½% 2005	116⅛	+ ⅛	7.32	5.84
120⅛	117⅛	Conv 9½% 2005	120⅛	- ⅛	7.89	5.87
130⅛	128⅛	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130⅛	- ⅛	9.57	5.97
111⅛	107⅛	Treas 7¾% 2006	111⅛	+ ⅛	6.73	5.61
112⅛	108⅛	Treas 7¾% 2006	112⅛	+ ⅛	6.80	5.81
107⅛	105⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	107⅛	+ ⅛	7.47	6.15
123⅛	121⅛	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123⅛	- ⅛	9.54	6.08
119⅛	115	Treas 8½% 2007	119⅛	- ⅛	7.14	5.81
110⅛	106⅛	Treas 7¼% 2007	110⅛		6.53	5.75
125⅛	121⅛	Treas 9% 2008	125⅛		7.18	5.75
118⅛	113⅛	Treas 8% 2009	118⅛	+ ⅛	6.75	5.75
104⅛	99⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	104⅛		5.98	5.74
129⅛	124⅛	Conv 9% 2011	129⅛	- ⅛	6.94	5.78
131	125⅛	Treas 9% 2012	131		6.87	5.78
98⅛	93⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	98⅛	+ ⅛	5.56	5.62
118⅛	112⅛	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	118⅛	+ ⅛	6.55	6.79
LONGS (over 15 years)						
122⅛	116⅛	Treas 8% 2013	122⅛	+ ⅛	6.53	5.77
125⅛	118⅛	Treas 8% 2015	125⅛	+ ⅛	6.38	5.70
135⅛	127⅛	Treas 8¾% 2017	135⅛	+ ⅛	6.47	5.72
129⅛	121⅛	Tr 8% 2021	129⅛	+ ⅛	6.17	5.67
UNDATED						
60⅛	56⅛	War Ln 3½%	60⅛	+ ⅛	5.75	
42⅛	38⅛	Treas 2½%	42⅛	+ ⅛	5.92	
67⅛	61⅛	Consols 4%	65⅛	+ ⅛	6.13	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				5%		3%
197⅛	194⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2001	197⅛	+ ⅛	2.76	3.07
195⅛	192⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2003	195⅛	+ ⅛	2.81	3.02
126⅛	124⅛	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	126⅛	+ ⅛	2.73	2.91
211⅛	206⅛	Treas IL 2% 2006	211⅛	+ ⅛	2.79	2.92
193⅛	187⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2009	193⅛	+ ⅛	2.78	2.88
203	195⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2011	202⅛		2.78	2.87
169⅛	162⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2013	169⅛		2.78	2.85
184⅛	175⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	183⅛	- ⅛	2.77	2.84
179⅛	170⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2020	179⅛	- ⅛	2.79	2.85
152⅛	142⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	151⅛	- ⅛	2.77	2.82
149⅛	140⅛	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	149⅛	- ⅛	2.74	2.79

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
252½	232½	Sinclair (Wm)†	247½	+ 1	4.6	12.0
80	63½	Southampton	71	+ ½	1.8	
122	91	Stakis	119	+ 1½	2.6	18.1
276	250½	Stanley Leisure	258		2.0	18.2
8	4	Tandem	7½	+ ¼		
346	346	Tanjong#	346		1.4	
194	157	Thistle Hotels†	174½	- ½	3.0	14.3
78½	58½	Tollerann Holt	67½		1.9	17.9
201½	135½	Vardon†	182		1.6	22.0
395	302½	Wembley†	374½	+ 3	1.9	9.3
158½	120	Zellers Gp	136	- ½	8.7	7.9
405	324	Abbott Mead†	380	+ 1	2.1	
170½	145½	Adscene	167½		6.3	17.5
87½	64½	Aegis Gp	80½	- 1	0.9	22.0
154	70	Aspen Grp	138	- 2	2.3	
195	152½	Atlantic Telecom	182½			
79½	50½	BBB Design	68½			
225	185	Barbour Index	194		6.5	22.2
2½	1½	Batdale	2½	+ ½		
390	320	Black (A&C)	387½		4.6	
370½	287½	Border TV	370½		2.4	28.5
476	410	Bristol	467½		4.3	16.0
288½	129½	Brit Aircraft	261½		0.9	37.6
594	213	BSkyB†	432	- 1½	1.7	26.2
259½	163½	CIA Gp	235		1.5	
747½	497	Capital Radio	723½	- 6½	2.4	22.5
561	468	Carlton Comms	482	- 9	3.4	13.3
267½	145	Character Grp	250	+ 5½	2.2	16.6
742½	602½	Chrysalis	715		0.5	
84½	77	City of Lon	84½		9.1	10.9
137	88	Dorland Comms	126½	+ 1½	1.0	
171½	143½	Creative Pub	170½		5.1	60.3
2500	2084½	Daily Mail	2450	+ 12½	1.2	28.6
2481½	2000	Daily Mail 'A'	2412½	+ 18½	1.2	28.2
188½	129½	Dialog	159	+ 1½		
247	203	Dorling Kind	221		2.6	60.6
415	355½	Dudley Jenkst	372½	+ 9	1.8	26.6
1167	905	EMAP	1167	+ 13	1.5	27.4
585	420	EMI	498	+ 14	3.3	68.9
1117½	976½	Elsevier	1003½		2.5	
2247½	1495	Euromoney Pb	2242½		2.8	24.7
66	50½	Fitch	66		1.3	11.8
555	481	Flextech	513½			
208½	117½	GBT Groupt	201		4.0	30.8
192½	155½	GWR Gp	179½		2.0	34.0
395	247½	Gamusse Groupt	255		3.5	12.8
49½	34½	Goodhead	49		1.3	16.1
435	280	HIT Entr	397½		0.2	73.2
287½	262½	Havoes Pubt	285		5.0	12.0
13½	9½	Highbury Hse	11½			
245	204	Holder Hime	244	+ 1½	3.8	15.2
485	400	Home Counts	445		1.6	
440	365	IBC	439	+ 1	2.8	15.3
80	70½	ITE Group	77	+ 3½		
23½	18½	Incepta	22½			13.3
387½	327½	Independent	352½		2.3	
162	122	Intereuropel	123½		4.8	9.0
235½	198½	Johnston Press	219½	- 7	1.7	17.0
44½	30	Lopex	43½		2.9	9.2
449½	305	Maiden	432½		1.8	
38½	23½	MediaKey†	31½		5.4	11.9
1065	940	Metal Bulletin	1050		2.7	26.5
213½	170	Mirror Grt	187½		3.2	12.4
1190	713	More Grpt	1152½	- 5	1.8	
435½	333	News Corp	420½	- 3½	0.3	18.2
377	292½	News Corp Prf	368½	- 3½	0.8	
308½	252½	Newsquest	302	- 6½	2.2	17.0
15½	11½	Osprey Comms	13			
1013	705	Pearson†	972	+ 12	2.5	27.8
56½	34½	Phonelink	41½			
902½	867½	Portsmth Sund	900		2.1	18.4
75	51½	Quarto†	67½		8.3	9.2
730	578	Reed Intl†	624	- 7	2.9	30.5
745	509½	Reuters†	670	+ 12½	2.4	25.0
173½	100½	Saatchi	156	+ ½	1.0	
748½	651	Scot Media†	724½	- 5	3.9	37.3
462	375	Scot Radio	460½		2.6	20.1
54½	40½	Shandwick†	48		4.3	10.0
13½	6½	Sleepy Kids	9½		1.1	
550	448	Southnews	549		1.3	18.8
22½	17½	Sterling Pub	19			4.3
114½	85½	Taylor Nelson	103½	- 2	1.2	
230	204	Televest Cot	230	+ 5	2.0	16.3
1920	1549½	Thomson Corp	1792	+ 2	2.5	37.9
573	483½	Trinity Intl†	538	- 1½	3.1	17.1
246	211	Ulster TV†	211	- 2½	3.4	
831	630	United News†	789	+ 20	3.0	17.2
115½	84½	VCI†	96½	- 1	10.2	7.1
105	75½	VTR	102½		5.8	10.8
375	240	WPP	368½	+ 4½	0.6	23.4
184½	123½	Wilmington	164½		0.9	35.4

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2959¾	2280¾	Ang Am Coal	2616¾	+ 21½	5.8	6.6
3193½	1975	Ang Am	3184½	+ 53½	2.6	
2912½	2068½	Ang Am Gold	2900	- 12½	5.4	
871½	843½	Anglo Am Plat	968½	- 6½	2.7	26.1
2934½	2040¾	Anglogold	2900	- 34½	7.3	13.8
22½	15½	Anglo Pac Grp	15½	- ½		
31½	22	Arcon Ind	23			
828	411½	Ashanti†	628	+ 3	1.9	
66½	47½	Ashton	48½		11.6	
112	47	Avocet	55½	- 3		
185	133½	Billiton†	166	+ 5½	3.8	14.1
34½	31½	Bracia	33½		3.5	
20½	15	Bougainville	15½	- ½		
290½	222½	Centrl Pacific	250	- 2½		
46½	21½	Cons Murchison	46½			1.4
1393½	1062½	De Beers	1337½	+ 21½	4.3	13.8
423½	337½	Driefontein	389½	- 7½	3.2	12.5
189½	88	Durban	157	- 5½		
87½	57½	E Rand Gold	78½		21.2	3.4
15	10½	E Rand Prop	13½	- ½		23.2
253½	128½	Eastvaal	237½	- ½	7.3	
273	219½	Eng China Clt	227½	- 1	7.1	10.6
126½	92	Evander	121½	+ 2½	12.7	
383	92	FS Cons	321	- 10	11.7	8.6
28½	17	FS Dev	26½			
1040¾	734¾	GFSA	1040¾	+ 25	2.6	21.1
142	85½	Gencor	140½	+ 2½	2.8	8.1
135½	98½	Gold Fields Prop	130½		5.9	14.1
23½	14½	Greenwich R 'A'	19½			
57	31½	Gwalia Cons	54½	- 1	1.5	9.5
275½	112½	Harmony	273½	- 2½		8.5
712½	443½	Impala Plat	712½	+ 37½	2.3	14.3
13½	9½	Kenmare Res	10½			
22	14	Kidston	21	+ 2		
11½	7	Meikalhama	8			
39	29	MIM	36½	- ½	2.7	
1087½	900	Minorco†	1016½	- 6½	3.8	
185	65	Monzagirt	180		4.8	
73½	53	Normandy	69	+ ½	3.4	14.6
177½	152½	North	160½	- 1½	3.2	22.4
80	22½	Petaling Tin	37½		1.3	
111	64½	RGC	75½	+ 1½	5.2	3.9
142½	80	RIB	120	+ ½	22.7	
29	24½	Rackwood	28½		17.0	
155½	77½	Randfontein	142½	- 6	4.2	15.0
121½	83	Renison Mng	87½	- 1		
894	641	Rio Tintot	789	+ 1	4.8	14.8
837½	686½	Rio Tinto Ltd	776½	- 3½	3.6	18.8
7	4	St Barbara	6			
191	128	St Helena	172½	+ 8½	18.6	2.4
192½	138½	Sons Gwalia	176½	- 4½	5.8	12.4
130½	100½	Steam Pacific	102½	- 1½		
1175	793½	Southvaal	1140½		8.8	11.4
228½	177½	WMC†	198½	- 2½	2.4	24.7
27	12	Wankie Col Z	12½	+ ½	8.9	4.3
67½	40½	Water Hall	41½			
443	385	Watts Blake	395		5.8	
1553¾	975	Western Deep	1498½	- 18½	5.2	19.2
149	109½	Zambia Copper	136½			

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
208½	155½	Abbot Group	204½		1.6	
32½	19½	Alliance Res	23	+ 2		
84½	54	Aminex	62½			
77	63½	Aus Oil & Gas	70½	+ 3½		
27½	9½	Aviva Pet	13½			
430	298½	Br Borneo	353½	+ 2	1.0	
343	265	BG	298½	+ ½	3.4	25.6
959	708½	Br Petroleum†	870	+ 22	3.1	19.8
1½	¼	Bula Resources	1			
1275	885	Burmah Castrl	1198	- 17	3.4	17.6
496½	323½	Cairn Energy	349	- 2		
119	89	Cantelen	113½			
14½	11	Capley Res	11½			
22½	19½	Dana Pet	21			
72½	55	Dragon Oil	58½			
28½	19½	Enn Oil & Gst	20		1.9	14.5
10	5½	Emerald Energy	5½			
598½	510	Enterprise†	535½	- ½	4.1	28.0
14½	11	Fortune	11½			43.2
300½	241½	Hardy Oil	262½		0.5	
47½	33½	JKX Oil & Gas	35			
385	300½	KBC Adv Tech	373½	- 1½	1.1	33.0
300	240	LASMO†	254	- 4	0.9	68.2
42½	35½	Lasmo (Units)	39		21.8	
84½	59½	Monument	59½	- ½		
2990¾	2612½	Norsk Hydro	2827½		2.0	9.3
127	97	Oil Search	109½	- 1½		
58½	41½	Petroz	46½	+ 1½		
54½	37½	Premier†	37½		2.0	6.0
58	29½	Pencrolt Rs	30			
414	331	Ranger	388	- 2½	4.9	7.0
3616¾	3031¾	Royal Dtch Fl	3468½	+ 65½	2.6	27.0

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4878¾	3998¾	Schlumberger	4437½	- 59½	1.0	
499½	385	Shell	446	+ 9	3.3	24.6
370½	276½	SOCO Intl	276½	- 3½		
7568¾	5843¾	Total	6908½	+ 50	1.9	
332½	242½	XCL	247½			
116	67½	Aberdeen Asst	116	+ 1½	4.0	34.9
700	467	AMVESCAP†	666½	+ 7½	1.1	29.4
194	120½	BWD†	187½	+ 2½	5.0	16.9
55½	45½	Berry Bch Nbl	47½		7.9	11.8
294	248½	Botec Int	248½	- 2½		
389½	245½	Brewin Dolphin†	351½		3.4	17.1
885	725	Caledonia	884		2.7	23.5
4050	2800	Camellia	4000		1.1	16.9
682½	398½	Cattles†	662½	+ 4	1.8	33.1
44½	37½	Christie	38½		3.2	12.6
795	526½	Close Brost	787½	- 6½	2.1	22.9
542½	433	ERM†	511½	+ 3	6.1	12.3
32½	20	Exco	24		3.9	
33½	19½	Fichers Intl	32	+ ½	2.6	
219½	197	Friends Ivory Sunl	218½		4.3	
409	332	Gerard	392½		5.1	17.6
286	247½	Hambros	283½		3.3	27.2
1705	1425	Henderson	1625		3.6	22.4
199½	148½	Hitachi Cred	199½		2.7	18.4
180	145	Investment Co	175	- 2½	2.5	
177½	138½	Jardine Stratt	149½	- 3½	5.8	
164	111½	Johnson Fryt	163½	+ 2	3.1	
620	570	Leopold J	572½		4.4	25.1
617½	462½	Liberty Intl	613½	+ 2	3.6	26.8
476½	343½	Lon Forfaitngt	432½	- 3	3.6	14.4
217½	189½	London Pacifict	199		8.7	
160	110½	Lon Scot Bk	145		2.9	25.8
263½	232½	Man ED & F	252	- 1	5.5	10.1
1935	1407½	M & G	1920	+ 65	2.6	31.0
222½	182½	Paragon▲	220		1.5	9.3
4350	2682½	Perpetual	4302½	+ 167½	1.8	29.0
998	785	Provident†	968	- 4	2.6	26.8
617½	400	Rathbone Bst	577½	- 2½	3.0	23.1
69½	54½	Rea Brothers†	68		1.8	13.6
62½	49½	Rutland Tst†	60½	+ 1½	3.5	
107½	80	SEC Group	88	- 1	7.2	6.9
390	317½	S & U	390		5.9	10.3
2640	1730	Schroders†	2640	+ 130	1.1	30.2
2334	1525	Schroders N/V†	2294	+ 64	1.3	26.3
775	610	Secure Tst†	752½		3.8	
185½	136½	Singer & Fried	185	+ ½	3.7	13.1
59½	48½	Towry Law	58½			
5½	3½	Tmp Hldgs	4			
81½	62½	Unum	63			
51	46½	Versailles Grp	50½		1.1	30.4
437½	397½	Waimat	437½		4.1	17.7

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	61	Brit Biotech	63	- 1		
750	600	Cantab Pharms	636			
332½	277½	Celltech	302½			
356½	220	Chiroscience	320	- 2½		
201	90	Core Group	92½			
205	162	Cortecs	172			
1983	1330	Glaxo Wellt	1755	+ 2	2.2	38.1
135	81½	ML Laboratories	91½	+ 2		
185	140	Medeva†	161	+ ½	3.4	7.5
260	165	Oxford Molecular	177½	- 2½		
310	265	Peptide Thera	286½			
513½	194½	Powderject	512			
92½	43½	Proteus Intl	65			
71	59	Ransom (Wm)	61½		5.2	12.4
170	124½	Oxxdant Health	165	+ 17½		
382½	260	Scotia	302½	+ 5		
436	285½	Shire Pharms	422½			
103½	47½	SkyePharma	86			
888	618	SmithKlinet	800	- ½	1.4	39.3
223	180	Therp Anti Inc	180	- 1½		
852½	422½	Vanguard	825			
166½	45½	Vanguard Wts	163			
245	145	Yamuna	188½	- 1½		
2850	2114	Zeneca†	2720	+ 5	1.8	35.3

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	84	AG Holdings	84		9.6	12.1
640	520	API	630		2.4	17.4
117½	88½	App Hold	93	+ ½		
203½	145½	Arjo Wiggins†	199½	+ 2	4.0	11.0
21	18	Bath Press	19½		3.5	8.1
468½	438½	Bemrose†	452	+ 2½	4.5	
193½	144½	Blagden	188½	+ 29	1.9	
3368½	2578½	Bowater Inc	3316½	- 16½		
313½	233½	Boxmore Intl	280½	- 1	1.5	
527	435	Br Polythenet	481	- 4	5.2	
291	219½	Bunzl	271½	- 2	2.5	15.2
141½	118½	Capital Indst	128½		5.9	
261½	226½	Cropper (James)	227½		2.6	8.1
399	268½	De La Rue	284	+ ½	10.8	7.4
274½	252½	Dolphin Pack	272½	- 1	3.6	12.6
69½	62½	Fairway Group	68½		7.3	21.1
100	70	Ferguson Intl	87		19.0	6.6
197½	145½	Fiokir	182½		2.6	12.7
80	56½	Inveresk†	68½	- 1	10.6	10.2
219½	185½	Jarvis Porter	218½		4.3	12.8
361	284	Low & Bonart	352½		4.7	11.8
25½	18½	Lowe (Robert)†	22½		2.2	8.2
79½	65½	MY Holdings	77½		4.4	10.5
177½	132½	Macfarlane	146	+ 1	3.9	
335	213½	Photobition	292½	+ 2	0.6	48.5
174½	140½	Plysu	172½		5.8	13.1
30½	25½	Porter Chadburn	27		3.7	8.6
299½	229	REXAM†	273½		7.0	11.1
532½	500	St Ives Gp	528½	- ½	2.7	16.2
332½	227½	Scapl	284½		2.9	
68½	20	Security & General	54			
122½	82½	Skillaw	113½	- 1½	2.5	31.2
233½	165½	Smith David	193½	+ 1½	5.2	12.0
181	158	Smurfit (Jeff)	178	+ 3½	2.5	
168	105	Sonic	108	+ 1½	3.8	11.8
148	133½	Tinsley Robor	143	+ 2	2.6	15.9
37½	16	Wace	34½		4.2	
285½	247½	Waddington	278½		4.8	12.3
347½	288	Watmough	322½		4.1	16.6
387½	223	Wyndeham	385		2.4	17.3

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	91	Allied Lon	114½	- 1	4.5	8.2
195	155½	Asda	188	- 1	2.0	24.6
32½	28½	Asiquay Grp	31½	+ ½		
159½	135½	Ashtenie Hldgs	157½		4.0	17.0
278½	243½	Benchmark†	275	- 1½	2.1	28.6
288½	253½	Billont	281½	- 1	4.9	20.5
173½	149	Birdy	157½	- 2	6.9	10.5
5½	3	Bolton Gp	3½			
64	53½	Boxmo End	62		2.4	
330½	278½	Bradford	320	- ½	3.4	22.7
825	645	Br Land	771	+ 3	1.4	44.1
255	213	Brxtont	248	+ 1½	4.7	20.1
132	100	Burford	130½	- ½	2.2	
147	132	CLS Hldgs	145	- 1	5.1	
318½	246½	Cap & Regnl▼	283½		1.5	27.8
460	407½	Cap Shop Cirst	451½	- 1½	2.6	29.5
321½	283½	Cardill Prop	321½		1.2	29.5
14½	9½	Carlisle	14½	+ ½		60.9
13½	8½	Callay Intl	10½	+ ½		
418½	343½	Chelsfieldt	375	+ 3½	1.1	
616	580	Chesterfield	616	+ 2½	2.7	
37	29	Chesterton Intl	36			
53½	34½	City Site Ests	36			38.6
107	90	Cleveland Tst	97		7.9	12.1
90	82½	CNC Props	90	+ 2½	4.7	
242½	185½	Compco	242½	+ 8	2.2	20.2
1685	1605	Daejan	1685		3.0	16.1
21	15½	Dares Estates	16½			10.2
126½	95½	Debenham Tewn	112		3.1	13.2
85	66½	Delancey Ests	83		2.3	16.9
222½	192½	Derwora	220		2.8	
586	552½	Derwent Hldgs	568½	+ 1	1.5	
355	283½	Development Sec	344½		1.0	21.3
205½	172½	Edge Properties	200½			21.4
420	410	Estates Agency	420		5.6	18.6
85	75½	Estates Genl	79		1.3	20.4
155½	139½	Evans Of Leeds	153½		2.9	17.9
42½	36½	Fletcher King	40		6.2	13.2
67	61½	Follies Group	66½		3.7	4.8
86	57½	Follies Group nv	66		3.7	4.8
540	461	Frogmore†	515½	+ 3	4.9	13.5
19	14½	Golden Land Inv	15½			
370	322	Grainger	365		2.6	
286	237½	Gt Portland	285½	- ½	3.9	31.4
196½	159	Grantchester	196	+ 1	0.6	58.9
228½	215½	Greycoat	218½	- ½	0.9	28.6
147½	104½	Hamtrs Caynt	141	- 2	2.7	9.1
537½	465½	Hammerson†	537½	+ 9½	2.8	31.6
31½	25½	Hampton Trust	29			
605	555	Helical Bar	596	+ 12½	2.2	16.4
50	46½	Hemingway	49½		1.4	16.4
130½	69½	HK Land†	96	- ½	7.5	
288	200	Jermyn▼	288		2.6	71.7
134½	94	LSH	117½	- 5	1.7	8.5
95½	84½	Lands Inv	91½		6.7	
1190	337½	Land Sec	1070	+ 5	3.2	30.8
36½	31	Lon & Assoc	35½		3.2	
15	9½	Lon & Metro	15	+ ½		1.1
138½	118½	Lon Merch Sec	134½		4.6	12.4
607½	509½	MEPC	581	+ 1½	3.7	35.4
119½	99½	MWB Group†	111½		4.2	
150	132	McKay Secs	149		3.7	21.0
89½	85½	Merivale Moore†	88½	+ 5	3.2	8.0
353	270	Milner Est	348		2.5	16.7
229½	202½	Minerva▼	227½		0.9	
34½	25	Moorfield Est†	34	+ 2½	2.0	
1900	1681½	Mountview	1700		3.1	11.9
169	156½	Mucklow (A&J)	166½		5.5	18.2
35	31	OEM	33½	+ ½		1.8
74½	52½	ORB	67½	- 3		29.4
38½	31½	Oliver Prop	33		2.3	
695	635	Peel	682½	- 2½	1.6	
316½	277	Pillar Prop	318½	+ ½	2.1	46.0
13½	7½	Premier Land	9			
204½	189	Quintain	196½	+ 1	2.2	32.8
28½	25	Raglan	25½		5.8	10.2
35½	26	Regalian	33		4.1	16.2
187½	157½	Rugby Est	183½	- 1	1.7	24.3
81½	67½	St Modwen Prpt	80½		4.7	9.8
73	59	Savile Grtn	71½		5.2	27.1
143	111½	Savills	139	- 1	3.4	9.7
101	92	Scot Mct	100½		3.9	17.7
232	217	Shaftesbury	227½		1.2	52.7
414½	342½	Slough Estates	384½	- 3	2.7	25.6
262½	247½	Smart (J)	247½		4.9	9.2
100½	93	TBI	94	- ½	2.7	30.9
195½	176½	Tops Ests	177½	- 2½	1.8	38.4
115½	102	Town Centre	115	+ 1	4.3	14.3
160½	143½	Trafford Park	158½		3.2	17.1
103½	87½	UK Land	102½		3.7	13.9
278½	251½	Warner	267½		6.0	18.8
260	255	Wantard	260		3.7	16.4
110½	95½	Walss▲	96			
459½	345½	Workspace Grp	447½		4.3	16.4

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	173	ASDA Group	218	+ 8	1.9	20.5
73½	56	Budgent	68½		2.7	13.9
76½	55½	Dairy Farm Intt	73½	+ 1	4.9	
212½	162	Faresk	163½		3.9	11.7
40½	37½	Fitzwilton	37½		7.6	10.3
150	95	Fyffes†	150		1.4	17.5
2512½	1995	Greggs	2507½	- 5	1.8	
208½	119	Iceland Group†	208½		3.2	16.3
421½	282	Kwik Save	418½	- 5	6.0	15.0
263	227½	Morrison (Wt)	262	+ 8½	1.0	21.0
48½	38	Park Foods	47½	+ 1	7.8	13.8
402	330	Safeway	367	- 2½	4.8	13.2
567	370	Sainsbury J	510	- 7	3.1	20.8
365½	207½	Somerfield	360	- 4	3.7	12.4
280½	194½	T & S Stores	280½		3.9	
630	485	Tesco	578		2.3	23.0
293½	256½	Thornfon†	285½		2.6	22.6
590	505	Watson & Philip	584		4.0	16.3

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	260	Alexon	260	- 2½		
286	205½	Allders	206	- 1½	4.9	10.1
180	148½	Allied Carpets†	153	- 1½	6.3	11.9
508	361½	Arcadia	437½	- 1½	0.4	17.7
683	390	Argos	638	- 1	3.7	20.2
41½	19½	Ashley (Laura)	34		2.2	68.8
190½	167½	Austin Reed	187½	- 1	5.0	11.2
337½	306½	Beale	310½		3.8	10.7
183½	157	Beattie (J)	180½	+ 2	7.0	
145	119½	Bentalls	130	- ½	2.8	4.7
438½	373½	Blacks Leis	382½	- 10	1.5	14.9
146	109	Body Shop	117½		5.3	12.4
990	602	Boots†	963	- 11	2.7	22.1
42½	30½	Brown & Jackson	38½			10.4
460	391	Brown (N)	391	- 4	2.3	21.6
505	373½	Carpetright	373½	- 4	7.0	12.4
285	227	Church Intl	244½		2.8	18.6
432½	398	Church†	415		5.1	
132½	95½	Clinton Cards	123½		3.1	
272½	189½	Country Gdns	231½	- 4	1.0	19.7
432½	332½	Courts Furnsht	410		1.2	17.7
587½	298	DFS Furniture	307½	- 1	5.2	12.4
433	344	Debenhams	367½	+ 16½	0.7	17.3
628	459	Dixons Grp	530½	+ 1½	2.6	15.9
65	45½	Elec Boutique	62½			32.4
4½	3	ERA Gp	4½			
70½	46½	Essex Furn	50½		9.3	10.2
170	155	Falkland Isls	157½			17.2
198½	162½	Fine Art Dev	195½		6.2	15.1
323½	203½	Find Earth†	302½		1.4	
564	445½	Flying Flw Ltst	557½	- 3	1.6	
117½	95½	Forminster	116½		2.7	49.6
445	355	French Conn	445	+ 5	0.9	15.6
45½	34½	Gieves	36½		1.9	
282½	217½	Goldsmiths Gp	275	+ 6	3.7	
145½	127½	Grampian Hdg	135		6.2	11.7
805	700	GUS	795	+ 16	2.9	20.7
294½	220½	Hamleys	281		5.8	
116½	75	Hampden Grp	114½		3.2	11.0
343½	269½	Harveys Furn	302½	- 3	2.9	31.4
221½	144½	Hse of Fraser†	152½	+ ½	4.5	16.8
151½	117½	Hughes (TJ)▼	151½		4.5	
823½	521½	JJB Sports	536	- 46	1.2	25.9
1201	709½	Kingfishert	1102	+ 2	2.6	30.0
355	250	Liberty	287½		1.2	
44½	25½	Limelight	32			
141	79½	MFI	95	+ 9	6.4	10.2
654	489	Marks Spencer	590	+ 8½	2.8	21.5
46½	35½	Merchant Retail	46		1.0	33.0
291½	216½	Moss Bros	281½	- 1	2.7	
860	515	Next	539½	- 10½	4.3	14.2
33½	26	Owen (G)	29	- ½		
462½	362½	Ottakars Intl	450		3.5	14.7
85	43½	Partners	45	- ½	1.4	8.3
88½	79½	Partridge Fine†	81		7.7	7.0
29½	25½	QS Hldgs	27½			
320	285	Rosebys†	285		5.2	
107½	85½	Save Group	91		10.2	
61½	46½	Sears	81½	+ ½	7.6	46.7
43½	39	Signet Group	43½	+ 1		2.2
587½	389½	Smith WH	576	+ 2½	3.4	
1300	1050	Sotheby's	1285		1.9	
272	216	Storehouse	251½	+ 1	4.2	12.7
92	70½	Stylo	74½		7.8	
221½	140½	Thorn	203½	+ 3½	6.2	11.2
127½	83½	Tie Rack	85½	- ½	4.9	8.6
3½	2½	Upton & South	2½			26.6
345½	261½	Whites	339½	- 1½	0.7	56.9
373½	280½	Wyevale†	353½	- 1	2.4	22.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
743½	535	AEA Tech	721		1.5	34.3
205½	129½	Acorn	188	- 8½		
200	152½	Aggreko	186½		2.5	22.8
90½	68	Alpha Airpts	90½	+ 2½	7.4	8.6
53	32½	Alphameric	35½			17.4
79	47	Anite Grp	67½	- 1		
533½	362½	Atkins WS	500		1.8	28.5
214½	160	BNB Res	211		4.6	12.4
790	507½	BPP†	727½		2.7	25.7
783½	667½	BTG	677	- ½	0.2	
37	17½	Bc Thornton	36½	+ 6		
110½	79½	Brooks Service	110	- ½	4.7	
859	568½	Business Post	859	+ 1½	1.6	36.9
2700	1517½	CMG	2612½	- 40	0.4	67.5
469	335	CRT Grpt	445	- 5	1.2	61.9
972½	812½	Capita Gp	966		1.6	
486½	311½	Capita Groupt	456½	- 1	0.6	70.8
8½	6½	Chemex	7½		3.3	9.5
251½	212½	Corp Servicest	251½		2.9	18.5
31½	24½	Coutts Cnsltg	25		0.5	
526½	317½	DCS Grpt	525	+ 2½	0.5	
315	235	Danka Bs Sys	264	- 2½	1.4	11.3
430	302	Davis Service	391½	+ 1½	3.7	21.0
830	670	Delphi	782½	+ 5	1.2	
1017½	682½	Diagonal†	995	- 22½	0.3	75.7
27½	19½	Eurocopy	20½	+ ½	15.0	3.4
67½	51½	EW Fact	55½		4.6	
75½	51	Ei Data Proc	67½		3.6	16.8
1502½	927½	FI Group	1382½	- 12½	0.5	76.7
455	337	Harvey Nash	442		1.1	
1120	773	Hays	1077	+ 20	1.1	37.3
58	51½	High-PointRoll	57½			
289	256½	Hogg Robinson	281	+ 1	4.5	13.1
1257½	585	JBA Hldgs	590		1.1	54.9
311	232½	Johnson Cleant	287½		5.5	
69½	47½	Kalamazoo	47½		11.2	
847½	570	Kewill Sys	842½		1.5	20.2
24½	13½	Laser-Scan	22	+ 1		
502½	317½	Lavendon†	496½	+ 1½	1.0	32.3
1657½	1147½	Logica†	1626	- 4	0.8	46.7
795	505	Lorient	784	- 2½	1.2	48.8
201	120½	Lynx Group	201	+ 1	1.2	29.4
75½	42½	MDIS	74½	- ½		
1015	772½	MMT Comp	975	- 2½	1.4	32.8
147½	109½	MR Group	130½		3.8	17.3
430	320	Macro 4†	430	+ 7½	7.5	12.4
72½	52½	Menstrone Abbey	71½		1.1	21.4
721	478½	Micro Focus	557½	- 7½		41.1
121½	55	Microgen	112½	+ 1	5.6	15.0
3200	1825	Misys	2880	- 20	0.6	48.2
282½	230½	MITIE Gp	281½		1.6	30.9
53½	51½	Novo Group	53½		3.7	12.1
55½	41½	Oskis	54	+ 1½	3.1	14.4
680	500	PSD†	582½	- 5	1.8	22.9
838½	635	Parity	780	- 5	0.8	
365	240	Pegasus	350		2.7	11.9
242½	145	Penna	211½	- 2½	1.3	10.8
255½	151	Photo-Me	228	- 2	2.9	23.0
50	35	Proudfoot	49		1.3	11.6
247½	165	RCO	242½	+ 26	8.2	31.4
287	218½	RPS Group†	285	+ 1	2.0	24.3
53	25½	Radiust	50	+ 1½	2.8	
447½	317½	Real Time	420		1.8	14.5
113½	79	Reliance	102½		2.3	22.5
193	119½	Reed Executive	176½	+ 2½	2.0	10.2
175	162	Reliance Sec	170		5.0	15.0
418	265	Rentokil In	407½	+ 4½	0.9	39.3
205½	152½	Ricardo Groupt	187½	- 4	4.1	24.6
576	455	Robert Walterst	543½		0.9	25.1
510	275	Rolfe & Nolan	315	+ 2½		52.8
382½	257½	Royalblue	332½	+ 25	0.8	44.8
1420	825	Sage Gp	1255	- 35	0.3	53.4
157	74	Sanderson	134½		4.6	12.7
790	551	Select Appt	790	+ 12½	0.6	33.9
2405	1475	Serco Gp	2300	- 35	0.4	58.7
1310	868	Serco Grpt	1242½	- 35	0.6	52.0
195½	154½	Shanks & McEwan	178½	- 1	2.8	22.5
905	520	Shered Intl†	860	- 7½	0.8	36.2
71	44	Simon Grp	69½	- 3½	1.2	18.4
61	37½	Sketchley	53	- ½		
285	181½	Skillsgroup†	275		1.9	25.2
125	103	Sita-Plust	104		13.6	10.2
187	92	Superscape VR	160	+ 13½		
116½	85	Torext	100	- 1½	2.9	18.7
3300	2250	Tyco Intl	3050		0.2	
126½	86½	WSP Groupt	100	+ ½	3.5	13.9
225	209	Warner Howrd	209		6.5	8.5
230	176	Waste Mgt Ind	230			40.5
415½	332½	Waste Recyt	405		0.8	37.3
238½	199	Whitehead Mann	233½		2.5	19.3
79½	62½	Wade Young Gn	76½	+ 2	5.7	11.8
500	304	Williams	447½	+ 3½	3.6	22.8

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	418¾	BT	680	+ 1	3.6	19.1
1637½	614½	COLT Telecom	1325	- 10		
765	467½	Cable Wireless	738	+ 15½	1.8	31.0
428½	264½	Cable&Wire Comc	408½	- 5		
755	252½	Energis	682½	- 17½		
308	250	Euro Telecom	306½	- 1	1.1	25.8
171	77½	General Cable	158	- 2		
445	239½	Orange	424	+ 7		
419	386½	Securicor	419	+ 13	0.5	54.4
95½	69½	TeleWest	87	+ 2½		
694	298	Vodafone	622	- 7	1.8	51.2

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
290	210	Air London	290	+ 8	2.8	17.8
357	219	All Nippon Air	274½	- 1½	0.5	
510½	344½	Airtrs†	510½	+ 20½	3.3	14.5
388	282½	Assoc Br Portst	356½	+ 4	3.2	17.5
367	284½	Autologic	350		2.7	
244	166½	Avis Europe	232	+ 1	1.8	23.9
638	402½	BAA	637	+ 16	2.5	19.5
651	498	Br Airways	614½	- 22	3.2	30.8
110½	90½	Clarkson (H)	100½	+ 2	5.1	
179½	135½	Clydeport Ops	172½	+ 1	4.1	
347½	317½	Dart	346		2.4	15.9
67½	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	51	+ 2		
387½	221½	FirstGroup	387½	+ 4	1.9	27.6
140	125	Fisher (James)†	125		3.2	
698	580	Forth Ports	658	+ 14	2.8	
600	510	Go-Ahead†	564		2.0	13.5
601½	480	Goode Durrant	595		2.2	17.6
441	305½	Helpline Gp	385	+ 6	0.3	47.4
1055	740	Irish Cont	1055		0.5	32.5
87½	74½	Jacobst	87		3.2	37.8
92½	60	Lon O'Sea Frts	67½			
615	490	Mersey Docks†	615		2.9	23.6
187½	138½	NFC	183		3.9	19.2
873½	676	Natl Express	873½	+ 19	1.9	19.7
805	562½	Ocean Group	805	+ 7½	2.3	24.4
104½	92½	Ocean Wilson	93½		5.1	16.8
933½	650	P & O Dfd	871	- 5	4.4	19.7
116½	107½	P & O 5½%	111½	+ 2½	6.2	
1093½	571½	Railtrack	1035	+ 7	2.7	19.7
130	98	Salvesen (C)	119½		6.0	17.2
47½	36	Seacon	40		3.9	30.4
270	244	Seascope Ship	260	+ 6½	6.0	8.7
311½	180	Servisair†	262½	- 5	2.5	21.2
1031	765	Stagecoach	992½		1.3	22.6
628	547½	Tibbet & Britn	574		3.9	
300	251	TDG†	294		4.0	19.1
116½	76½	Ugland	107½	- ½	5.9	
72½	39½	Utd Carriers†	58		7.5	

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
967	780	Anglian	948	+ 5	4.7	12.0
335	285	East Surrey	314		4.5	12.7
1053½	907	Hyder	971½	- 1	5.9	8.2
124	115½	Hydro Gro Pf	123½		8.0	
770	660	Mid Kent Hdg	765		5.1	11.4
1085	685	Severn Trent	1025	+ 44	4.6	11.3
3625	3255	South Staffs	3628		3.2	15.0
1005	864½	South West	993½	+ 3	4.8	12.5
1043	800	Thames	991	+ 29	4.5	11.1
906	656	Utd Utilities	872	+ 17	5.5	14.1
560	466	Wessex	513½	+ 9½	4.6	9.9
560	467½	Yorkshire	517½	+ 15	4.7	10.1

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

Shocks and stares.
(Check out our startling new site.)
www.esi.co.uk esi electronic share information



PROFILE 28
The high life of Stephen Hinchliffe

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY
SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1998

Lonrho set for £130m loss as Hondo faces delisting

BY JASON NISSE

LONRHO, the troubled conglomerate, is facing a £130 million loss from its exposure to Hondo Oil & Gas, an oil exploration company which faces delisting from the American Stock Exchange and may not be able to pay its debts.

The British group — whose shareholders backed a £350 million deal to repurchase its shares and buy a South African coal company earlier this week — has investments valued at £69 million in Hondo and has also extended loans recently stated at $107 million (£63 million) to the oil group.

On Thursday night Hondo told investors that it was facing problems that may mean it could not maintain its listing on the Amex market in New York. It also said it was in danger of breaching the covenants on the loans extended to it by Lonrho, which also has a controlling shareholding in Hondo. The company has been exploring for oil in Colombia in conjunction with Amoco Corporation. However, last month, preliminary reports from its Opon 14 well indicated that there might not be enough gas reserves to make it commercially viable.

Unless the Opon 14 tests prove that Hondo has another 13 billion cubic feet of natural gas in the well, this will trigger a default clause in its loan agreement with Lonrho. The British group recently increased its exposure to Hondo by extending a further loan to the company late last year. Hondo also has troubles at its two other wells — Opon 3 and Opon 4. Though they are producing gas, greater than expected falls in the flowing pressure of both wells has occurred and this is limiting production.

The group's shares have slumped in value in recent weeks on the Amex market and were briefly suspended late last month because of rapid falls in their value.

A Lonrho spokesman said the group would take a view on whether to write off its investment in Hondo in November, when the term of the current loans run out. He said that any write-off would not affect Lonrho's profits and would only be a balance sheet item. "We control Hondo and we decide whether it goes into default," said the spokesman.

Lonrho has been involved in Hondo for nearly a decade, when the investment was first sanctioned during Tiny Rowland's reign as chief executive. Sir John Craven, chairman of Lonrho, recently told investors that the group should never have invested in the business and would seek to sell its stake as soon as was practicable.

The group has virtually completed its restructuring, following the approval of the coal and share deals at Thursday's extraordinary meeting, and only has to sell its Princess Hotels business. Second round bids have just gone in and Lonrho hopes to conclude the £300 million disposal by June.

Bank of Japan disciplines 98 for corruption

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S central bank, shaken by corruption allegations, yesterday disciplined a total of 98 officials in an attempt to restore its battered authority.

The Bank of Japan announced the mass punishment after completing an internal investigation that found many of its personnel accepted lavish entertainment from private banks.

The latest move came as the Bank tried desperately to shore its credibility. The country's economic problems threatened to cause the yen to drift even lower on the foreign exchanges.

The BoJ yesterday launched an aggressive round of intervention in an attempt to drive the yen back towards 125 to the dollar. Dealers said the action — in thin trade over the Easter weekend — caught the market off-guard and ensured that the yen rose from about Y131 to the dollar to Y127.5.

The BoJ was supported in its actions by the Ministry of Finance which insisted that the yen was too weak and that share prices should rise with the latest stimulus package. Financial markets, however, continued to respond coolly to the 16 trillion yen (£70 billion) package. Share prices fell sharply in the morning, but regained ground when the yen surged in the afternoon. The Nikkei index closed at 16,481.12, down 55.54 points from Thursday.

Last week, Tokyo prosecutors indicted a senior bank official, Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, on charges of giving out price-sensitive information and offering other favours to two commercial banks in exchange for entertainment worth Y4.3 million.

Mr Yoshizawa, 42, head of the capital markets division, became the first BOJ official to be charged with accepting bribes in the central bank's 116-year history.

Yutaka Yamaguchi, the BOJ's deputy governor, yesterday bowed in penance as he apologised for the scandal, and said the Bank was determined to recover public trust.

Among those disciplined were three senior executives who were ordered to give back 20 per cent of their pay for a period of one to five months. Other officials received reprimands.

The investigation of 600 staff launched in February revealed that many had maintained questionable contacts with financial firms. While they were not deemed to have broken the law, some officials leaked confidential information to banks that wined and dined them, the BoJ said.



Hayami: repaying salary

Masaru Hayami, the bank's Governor, along with his two deputies and four executive directors, will voluntarily repay 20 per cent of their salaries for a month in a gesture of repentance for the scandal. Mr Hayami's predecessor, Yasuo Matsushita, resigned last month to take responsibility for an affair that has severely dented the central bank's prestige.

The Ministry of Finance has also lost credibility with the public since the repeated revelations of corruption. Two ministry officials have been arrested this year on suspicion of receiving bribes from big banks in exchange for leaking confidential information.

The scandals, eroding the once powerful Ministry of Finance's influence over policy, have contributed to public unease about the Government's handling of the economy.

Yesterday, the Government acknowledged that the nation's economy has worsened because of weak consumer spending and bleak corporate sentiment. "The economy is stagnant, and the situation is becoming increasingly severe," the Economic Planning Agency said in its April report.



Peter Gabriel, who co-founded Genesis, is thought to be worth up to £10 million

Peter Gabriel issues writ over handling of tax affairs

BY CHRIS AYRES

PETER GABRIEL, the pop singer who co-founded the rock group Genesis before embarking on a successful solo career, is suing his firm of accountants over its handling of his tax affairs.

The writ is the latest in a series of high-profile spats between multimillionaire pop stars and their accountants.

The most serious involved Sting, the singer and former frontman of The Police. His accountant, Keith Moore, was found guilty in 1995 of stealing £6 million from the musician to finance several doomed business ventures.

Mr Gabriel is suing Baker Tilly, a firm of accountants based in West London that specialises in media and the arts. It made an estimated £40 million in sales last year.

The pop singer, thought to be worth up to £10 million, and one of his private companies, is demanding damages for breach of contract for the way the firm dealt with his and his company's tax affairs between 1992 and 1993. He is also suing for breach of duty of care over his tax affairs. It is not known how much money Mr Gabriel is demanding, although it is thought that the figure could run to millions of pounds.

In the early 1990s, Mr Gabriel had just released his successful album *Us* and was setting out on his *Secret World* tour. A source close to the star said: "In 1992, the *Secret World* tour was taking him all around the world and was very profitable. It would have cost several hundred thousand pounds to stage, with millions running through his bank accounts at the time."

A spokeswoman for Baker Tilly, whose managing partner is Laurence Long, said: "We have not received a writ and if we do we will vigorously defend it." The company refused to make any further comment on its relationship with the pop star.

Mr Gabriel's lawyers refused to discuss the writ.

Call to halt Citibank merger plan

THE planned US merger of Citicorp and Travelers Group faces a call by the senior Democrat on the House Banking Committee for it to be halted pending inquiries into claims that the jailed brother of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the disgraced former President of Mexico, laundered drug money via Citibank (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Maxine Waters said: "Let's take a look at Citicorp and see if they are deserving of support for a merger."

US officials are investigating the legality of Raul Salinas transferring $80 million (£50 million).

Hot Seat, page 28
Commentary, page 29

Noodle bar chain on course to float

BY DOMINIC WALSH

WAGAMAMA, the popular Japanese noodle bar chain, could be heading for the stock market. The group has just acquired two new sites in London and is thought to be close to unveiling a new financial partner to fund expansion.

The company, which currently has two restaurants in Soho and Bloomsbury, is to open a 5,000 sq ft restaurant in Wigmore Street, in Central London, this summer, and an 8,000 sq ft branch is expected to open in Camden, North London, next year.

The high-tech refectory-style restaurants are thought to turn over at least £3 million a year each, serving more than 1,000 covers a day and turning the tables an astonishing ten or more times. The Soho branch serves more than 1,000 kilos of noodles a week.

The concept, which falls between fast food and casual dining, was originally devised by Alan Yau, who used *kaizen* — the Japanese ethos of continual improvement — as his guiding philosophy.

The group is now headed by Ian Neill, the well-regarded former managing director of Rank Restaurants.

Under Mr Yau, who opened his first Wagamama in 1992, the group had plans to open branches in Manchester, New York and Paris en route to an eventual stock market listing. Industry sources now believe the company is planning a flotation in about 12 months' time.

C&W to sell French stake to Italians

CABLE & WIRELESS, the UK telecoms giant, is poised to sell its 20 per cent stake in Bouygues Telecom of France, a mobile phone company, to Telecom Italia. Analysts estimate that the sale could fetch up to £500 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The deal is part of an international agreement between the two companies that could create the world's second largest carrier of international traffic. C&W has agreed in principle to the sale, although the price is still being negotiated.

Dick Brown, the chief executive of C&W, has previously said that he intends to raise £1 billion by selling about 50 minority interests. The shakeup of C&W has already attracted controversy, after it announced 1,500 job losses.

Lloyds TSB glitch halts clients' cash

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Lloyds TSB customers were left strapped for cash yesterday morning after a computer failure crippled the bank's automatic-teller machine network.

Emergency engineers were called in late on Thursday evening to tackle the computer glitch, but were unable to remedy the problems until noon yesterday.

Meanwhile, customers relying on the clearance of cheques and funds deposited at the start of the week were prevented from withdrawing cash, even though the ATM system said that their accounts were in credit.

One disgruntled customer from Kent said: "The cash-point was showing the correct balance, but it wouldn't let me withdraw even a tenner. It was a good job I had a building society account."

A Lloyds TSB spokeswoman attributed the problems to the failure of an overnight update of account balances. Normally, cheques deposited on a Monday are accredited to the account by Thursday, but cash-point users cannot withdraw the money until the next day.

"In this case, some customers were unable to withdraw cash because the overnight update of information failed," the spokeswoman said. "However, our technicians worked through the night and the ATM system is now working normally."

Lloyds TSB, whose chief executive is Peter Ellwood, has one of the largest ATM networks in the UK.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Cars, stamps and cigarettes shared the chorus line this week, but it was a single red umbrella that stole the show. Citicorp, America's biggest bank, said it was merging with Travelers Group, in a $140 billion (£85 billion) deal that will create the world's largest financial services company. Citigroup will adopt Travelers' red umbrella as its logo.

News of the deal sent Wall Street soaring, and pushed the FTSE 100 through 6,100 and reignited the prospects of a fresh round of banking mergers, as European banks scramble for position. Citicorp is the world's biggest issuer of credit cards. Travelers operates across the financial services spectrum, and last year paid $9 billion for Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street investment bank.

President Clinton moved to reassure tobacco farmers, after the tobacco industry rejected plans for a settlement. Under a deal agreed last year, companies including RJR Nabisco and Philip Morris were to contribute $368.5 billion over 25 years towards the cost of treating tobacco-related illnesses in 40 states. The deal would have brought immunity from mass lawsuits.

The industry has choked on tougher legislation that would have pushed the cost up to $506 billion and removed much of the legal protection. One executive complained that Congress was asking the tobacco industry to sign a suicide note.

The Bank of England left interest rates at 7.25 per cent, as two vintage names passed into new ownership.

The Savoy Group, which includes Claridge's, the Berkeley and the Savoy itself, was sold to a group of American investors for £520 million, bringing to an end 110 years of independent ownership. The Savoy's arcane two-tier share structure has frustrated countless suitors over the years, including Sir Maxwell Joseph of Grand Metropolitan, Lord Matthews of Trafalgar House, and Lord Forte of Ripley, who spent years locked in acrimonious wranglings with the late Sir Hugh Wontner.

The sale to Blackstone Group ensures a £310 million windfall for Granada Group, headed by Gerry Robinson, which inherited a key stake in the Savoy when it took over Forte three years ago.

Further down the Strand, Stanley Gibbons, the most famous name in stamps, was sold for £13.5 million to Flying Flowers, a mail order company based in Jersey.

Thorn, owner of Radio Rentals, announced that it is in takeover talks with an unnamed suitor — possibly an American finance house. Thorn has been on a one-way slide since demerging from EMI less than two years ago.

Gaskets blew down at the Royal Automobile Club, which a week ago ousted its chairman, Jeffrey Rose, after he proposed the organisation float off its motoring services business. On reflection, the RAC seemed to think this was not such a bad idea, and disclosed it had hired City advisers and would consult with its members about a £400 million demerger. Rose is to requisition an extraordinary meeting of shareholders, with a view to forcing the removal of the RAC board. The RAC is writing to members this weekend.

JON ASHWORTH

The Great Universal Stores P.L.C.

Increased and Final* Offer of

£6.50 in cash per share for

Argos plc

POST YOUR ACCEPTANCE FORM TODAY

For further information, call the GUS Offer Helpline on

0800 521 002

The Directors of The Great Universal Stores P.L.C. are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of The Great Universal Stores P.L.C. accept responsibility accordingly.

**The Great Universal Stores P.L.C. reserves the right to increase or otherwise amend the Increased and Final Offer should a competitive situation arise or should the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers so agree.*



Hinchliffe has recently come out of his shell: a Yorkshire businessman acquaintance says that he is "full of bravado, arrogance and front"

Lowdown on the high life of a failed empire builder

How long can the former head of collapsed retailer Facia enjoy a life of luxury?

Jason Nissé and **Lucy McDonald** report

When the first Sikorsky helicopters started to appear in the 1930s a French avionics expert is reputed to have said: "How does it stay up there? There is no visible means of support." The same could be said about Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial South Yorkshire businessman whose Facia retailing empire collapsed with debts of more than £100 million in mid-1996.

While Sears — whose chief executive, Liam Strong, was forced to resign for trusting Hinchliffe — fights to retrieve some of the £70 million it lost through its involvement with Facia; while many of Facia's 5,000 former employees study jobcentre windows in hope of finding work; while estate agents around the country and in Germany try to find new tenants for shops formerly occupied by Facia brands including Saxone, Freeman Hardy Willis, Sock Shop, Bata and Oakland; while investigators from the Serious Fraud Office pore over files and interview former associates of Hinchliffe stretching from Tel Aviv to Tooting; while Department of Trade and Industry lawyers prepare court papers for this autumn's hearing at which the DTI will apply to have him disqualified as a director: Hinchliffe continues to enjoy a glamorous and opulent lifestyle.

In the year or so after Facia collapsed, Hinchliffe kept a pretty low profile. He did not turn up for the group's creditors meeting in Leeds, sending his long-time associate, Christopher Harrison, to face the flak. And calls were immediately directed to his solicitor, Keith Oliver, of Peters & Peters, the man who successfully defended Kevin Maxwell against fraud and theft charges.

However, recently Hinchliffe has come out of his shell. A South Yorkshire businessman who knows him well says that Hinchliffe looked quite stressed six or nine months ago but recently he had seen him and he was "full of bravado, arrogance and front. He is back on form." Oliver, still speaking on his behalf, said: "Mr Hinchliffe will continue his business comeback."

While the receivers sold off Facia's castle-like headquarters in Parkhead Hall, Sheffield — with its breathtaking boardroom and a seat for Hinchliffe that looked more like a throne — the 6ft 5in Hinchliffe still occupies his home in Dore, a commuter village outside Sheffield. Longacres boasts a dozen rooms, a swimming pool, a host of manicured lawns, including one the size of a football pitch, and a helicopter pad. Hinchliffe is said by locals to use a helicopter to fly from Dore at least twice a week. He entertains regularly, making up for no longer being on the board of his beloved Sheffield United by hosting football parties in front of a widescreen TV pumping out televised matches.

The Hinch, though, does not stay in all the time. Indeed he loves to go out and socialise. He has a chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce, which ferries him to his favourite haunts. His most regular hangout is the Rising Sun, in Abbey Lane, Sheffield, a friendly, comfortable pub. Lunch is often taken at Mediterranean, a tapas bar where a meal costs an average of £10. Dinner is sometimes at Rafters, an Italian restaurant, or the Cavendish Hotel in the scenic Derbyshire village of Baslow. The set menu at the Cavendish is £37.50 a head and the cheapest wine is £17.50 a bottle. Hinchliffe has a penchant for champagne and fine cigars. He is often seen driving any of a number of convertible cars, some boasting one of his HINCH1 to HINCH13 number plates, and is reputed to have a collection of more than 60 in a warehouse in Attercliffe, Sheffield.

In the past few months Hinchliffe has seen most of what is left of his empire collapse. His German shoe business, which he set up in early 1996 to take control of the local arm of Bata Shoes, went into receivership in November. Four suppliers in the business's home town of Bensheim applied to have the company wound up for not paying its debts and a German lawyer called Klaus Peter Woitas took control of the troubled operation with its 103 outlets and 600 employees.

The German operation's UK holding company — Strategic Group — in which Hinchliffe is the only shareholder, paid £33,000 to Hinchliffe and £331,000 to his company, Chase Montagu, in the 18 months to January 31, 1997. Its accounts for this period were qualified by its auditors, Robert M Grierson & Co, last October for "failure to prepare group accounts and cashflow statements contrary to the Companies Act 1985".

Colibri of London, the lighter business that Hinchliffe retained after Facia went under, saw its franchise withdrawn by its US parent company. Colibri is now under the control of Howard Hodgson, the former funeral director whose attempt to turn Colibri's rival, Ronson, into a clothing brand led to his ousting from Ronson, which is now run by Victor Kiam of Remington shavers fame.

The last of Hinchliffe's main operations is French & Scott, the lingerie brand. This was served with a winding-up petition last year by Price Waterhouse, the accountants appointed as administrator of Facia Footwear, the operation that owned the shoe chains that Hinchliffe bought from Sears. Egged on by Sears, Price Waterhouse has waged a bitter war to win back as many of the assets of the Facia companies that it does not control and Hinchliffe's personal wealth as it can. This included obtaining a Mereva injunction against Hinchliffe, which prevented him from disposing of any of his assets.

Price Waterhouse's claims have meant that BDO Stoy Hayward, the liquidator of the Facia empire, has not been able to distribute any of the assets left in the group to creditors.

Last October, French & Scott filed a Companies Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) to avoid being placed in either receivership or administration. According to the report filed by the supervisor of the scheme — Derek Woolley of the Sheffield office of Poppleton & Appleby, the accountants — the business owed nearly £429,000 to creditors, while its last accounts showed assets of only £41,401.

Among the creditors were Colibri — owed £33,900 — and Chase Montagu, Hinchliffe's private company — owed £30,400. The Inland Revenue — owed £53,300 in back taxes — was the only creditor to oppose the CVA. *The Times* repeatedly attempted to contact Woolley but he was unavailable for comment.

Woolley is also one of the receivers appointed to recover a debt owed to Lloyds Bank by Chase Montagu, Hinchliffe's investment company. Last October the receivers took control over a property owned by the company in Sheffield. Hinchliffe's solicitors told *The Times* that the debt to Lloyds has now been satisfied and Chase Montagu has no solvency problems. Indeed, the firm's most recent accounts — for 1996 — showed it making a pre-tax profit of £758,000 after paying £117,000 to its directors — Hinchliffe and Harrison — and £188,000 to three members of staff.

Chase Montagu seems to be the reason Hinchliffe can continue his high-on-the-hog lifestyle. But — with the SFO, the DTI and various creditors still snooping into his affairs — there must be a question mark about how long this can carry on.

MUSCROFTS



Longacres boasts a swimming pool, manicured lawns and helicopter pad

Can the odd couple stay wedded to joys of power-sharing?

They are being described as The Odd Couple. One is measured and soft-spoken, embodies "Wasp" decorum, wears classic suits, is physically trim, has divorced and remarried, lives in the quiet of the suburbs, is a gourmet chef and has a passion for Japanese rock gardens.

The other is the son of Jewish immigrants from Poland, wears brown (yes, brown) suits, carries a noticeable paunch, has stayed married to the same woman for 43 years, cannot cook for toffee, basks in a flashy Manhattan apartment, and has all those qualities that the more old-fashioned Brooklyners have in abundance: feistiness, chutzpah and street-savvy.

The first, John Reed of Citicorp, has now joined the second, Sanford Weill of the Travelers Group, in a record-breaking merger of their two companies, worth $140 billion (£85 billion). They are so unlike each other that many are wondering how long the marriage will survive.

At their press conference on Monday, when the occasion came as close to a "love fest" as Wall Street ever gets, the difference in style and tenor was apparent. Asked whether they could work with each other, Mr Reed said: "Sandy is a good person. I don't have any problems with Sandy." This was a clipped and clear pronouncement, rather in the manner of a Cordelia unwilling to heave heart into mouth.

Mr Weill, on the other hand, was flamboyant, throwing in this quip in the manner of a true New Yorker: "I'm used to sharing power and responsibility — I've been married to my wife for 43 years." At this, he chortled, and the world chortled with him.

It was left to Mr Reed to come up with the roughage. Deflating the humour that had crept in on the gathering, he said: "We are now able to deal with the consumer across his or her whole life — the young are looking for transnational business, primarily banking, whereas older people need somewhat more mature advice-based business." The first would come from Citicorp, the second from Travelers.

Even if the marriage does survive, people question for how long the two will remain as co-chairmen and joint chief executives of the new Citigroup. Surely, people on Wall Street say, two racehorses cannot run in tandem forever. Who will break free and streak ahead?

Most assume that, over time, Mr Weill, now 65, will stand taller in the new group. They assume this because he is a scrapper who has fought his way to the top, climbing the financial Everest without oxygen or sherpas. The son of a dressmaker, his first job after he left Cornell University in 1955 was as a messenger for Bear Stearns, the New York stockbroker.

Then, on about $150 a month, he was supporting a wife and a child and an ego that was nowhere near satiation. In 1960, tired of "going nowhere", he borrowed $200,000 from friends and family, bought a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and started a brokerage firm.

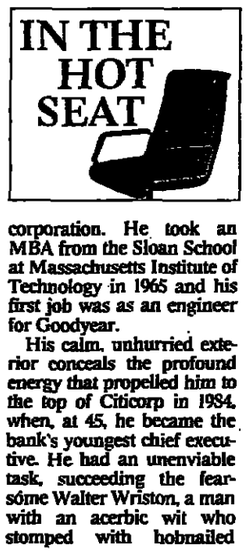


Weill: flamboyant

Mr Reed, 59, is of more conventional corporate stock, although by no means the scion of a blue-blood banking family. Born in Chicago, he was raised in Argentina and Brazil, where his father worked as an executive for an American corporation. He took an MBA from the Sloan School at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965 and his first job was as an engineer for Goodyear.

IN THE HOT SEAT

His calm, unhurried exterior conceals the profound energy that propelled him to the top of Citicorp in 1984, when, at 45, he became the bank's youngest chief executive. He had an unenviable task, succeeding the fearsome Walter Wriston, a man with an acerbic wit who stomped with hobnailed boots over the fuddy-duddies of the banking world. Mr Reed also had to pick up the pieces after Mr Wriston's blunders, one of which was to commit Citicorp to lend at colossal levels to the Third World. The resultant debt problem was to blow up in Mr Reed's face as the group rode through some of its rockiest moments.



Reed: conventional

Mr Weill, too, has had his ups and downs, and the biggest "down" came in 1985, when he quit as chairman of American Express after failing to buy Fireman's Fund. He wallowed in his "unemployed" state, making his children buy dinner and cigars for their "jobless Dad", but bounced back after following his India-rubber instincts to buy Commercial Credit in 1986.

If anything, Mr Weill is the more inventive, and it is no surprise that he made the first approach to discuss the merger, taking his idea to Mr Reed on February 25 at a meeting of the Business Council in Washington. In the mythology that has swiftly fallen into place after Monday's deal, Mr Weill is believed simply to have said to Mr Reed: "Hey pal, come back to my room at the Park Hyatt when this gig is done. I've got something that will blow your socks off."

There, a beaming, ebullient Mr Weill posed the question: "How about it?" Mr Reed later revealed, with characteristic understatement, that he was a little surprised: "I said I hadn't thought about it, but I would take a look." True to his word, Mr Reed, ever the engineer, went back to his closest advisers and studied the offer. No possibility was left undissected, no option left unquestioned. At the Travelers Group, too, matters proceeded with the utmost secrecy. In discussion papers, Citicorp was codenamed Saturn and Travelers was Jupiter. Why? "Because," explained Mr Weill, "it was a marriage made in heaven." At Citicorp, reflecting Mr Reed's less lurid manner, the companies were simply called Red and Blue.

Typical of the two men — and an illuminating lesson to their subordinates — was the manner in which they saved the combined company about $100 million in brokers' fees by brokering the deal themselves. Neither approves of spending when that can be avoided, and an early employee of Mr Weill's first brokerage recalled recently how his frugal boss gave him an office "in a closet ... we took a door off the closet, and the desk was half in and half out."

Neither man stinted, however, on the celebrations that followed news of the merger. They dined out together in the company of their wives, at Le Cirque 2000, New York's glitziest eatery. If Wall Street is to be turned on its head, then bread must be broken in style.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Pelé's game

WHILE Pelé is in Manchester — no doubt cheering on Liverpool against United — he has been promoting his cause as the great reformer of Brazilian football. In his role as Sports Minister, the soccer great has reformed the structure of Brazilian clubs to make them limited companies and is now looking for investment in the Brazilian leagues.

A delegation including Peter Kenyon, deputy chief executive of Manchester United, Glen Cooper of Apax Partners Corporate Finance and senior executives from AC Milan, are to fly to Rio next month for a "fact-finding mission".

Though Pelé will be there to welcome them, one wonders in what capacity. A row about his relationship with Teleglobo, the TV network that has signed him as a commentator for the World Cup, has led to threats that he might have to resign as Sports Minister.

● *WHAT do points mean? Points mean prizes. Just ask the Barclaycard holder who has racked up no fewer than 60,000 points since the launch of its loyalty scheme ten years ago. This entitles the holder to 1,500 golf-balls, the adoption of 50 animals at Whipsnade zoo, or 25 bungee jumps over the River Thames. And he had to spend only £600,000 for the privilege.*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Edgar reign

FURTHER evidence of the booming property market comes my way from the picturesque Lune Valley in Lancashire, where Thurland Castle has been sold for more than £1 million through agent Brodie Marshall Hotels. The new owner, who intends to convert it from a conference venue into a country house hotel, must be hoping for better luck than some previous occupants. Built in the 14th century by Sir Thomas Tunstall, it was sacked after being besieged in the Civil War. It was restored in the 19th century only to be gutted by fire in 1879. Paperwork on the castle's sale, which comes complete with crenellations and battlements, must have been pretty straightforward. The vendor was a Mr Ernest Edgar; the purchaser Mr David Edgar. I am told they are not related.

● *WHEN all else fails — call in the cavalry. The Royal Automobile Club has been kept on the back foot by the guerrilla tactics of its former chairman Jeffrey Rose, campaigning to free the motor side (as it were). So guess who has been called in to aid the parts. That's right. Sir Tim Bell.*

Soeur-eal

LA GUERRE du Publicis — which has rend asunder the French advertising scene — is finally over. Maurice Lévy, executive chairman of the internationally influential Publicis, has finally succeeded in negotiating a truce between Michele Bleustein-Blanchet and Elisabeth Badinter (née Bleustein-Blanchet), the two surviving daughters, and principal heirs of Publicis's founder, Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet.

Publicis's shares are controlled to the important extent of 38.4 per cent by "Somarel" — a Bleustein-Blanchet family holding company set up nearly 30 years ago by the late Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet and in which Elisabeth Badinter has been holding 33.38 per cent and her younger sister, Michele, 29.67 per cent. Piqued by Elisabeth's influence as a member of the Publicis steering committee, Michele asked SBC Warburg Dillon Read to find a buyer for her stake.

However, Lévy has now arranged for the greater part of Michele's in "Somarel" to be bought by her sister Elisabeth. And may they live happily ever after.

JASON NISSÉ

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.65	2.48
Austria Sch	22.38	20.72
Belgium Fr	66.96	61.00
Canada $	2.513	2.325
Cyprus Cypt	0.931	0.860
Denmark Kr	12.19	11.30
Finland Mrk	9.79	9.04
France Fr	10.66	9.86
Germany Dm	3.20	2.96
Greece Dr	563	514
Hong Kong $	13.81	12.81
Iceland	133	113
Ireland Pt	1.25	1.17
Israel Shk	6.55	5.90
Italy Lira	3179	2942
Japan Yen	235.81	218.26
Malta	0.693	0.634
Netherlds Gld	3.615	3.320
New Zealand $	3.18	2.94
Norway Kr	13.22	12.22
Portugal Esc	324.09	302.06
S Africa Rd	9.15	8.19
Spain Pta	269.24	250.45
Sweden Kr	14.00	12.90
Switzerland Fr	2.68	2.46
Turkey Lira	420313	400435
USA $	1.763	1.640

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Japan on the verge

"When Sony chairman Norio Ohga said Japan was on the verge of collapse economists scoffed at the hyperbole. But many ordinary Japanese believe their country is facing just such an emergency and are deeply pessimistic ..."

Business Focus, The Sunday Times, tomorrow

STANDARD LIFE BANK™

You'd expect a great rate for your personal savings. Why not for your business?

UP TO 7·30% GROSS P.A. NO NOTICE REQUIRED

Our Direct Access Savings Account for businesses has been designed to offer exactly what most businesses are looking for:
- Consistently competitive tiered rates of interest
- The ease and convenience of telephone banking
- No day to day charges
- No minimum deposit
- No limit on the number of withdrawals and no notice required
- The option to 'pool' accounts and get a higher rate of interest.

Opening an account couldn't be simpler - your financial adviser can contact us on your behalf or you can call us direct - it could be one of the best business decisions you've ever made.

BUSINESS LINE 0345 55 56 59 Saving has never been simpler

PHONE LINES OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-9PM, SATURDAY 8AM-5PM.



Terms and Conditions available on request. *Gross p.a. - the rate of interest paid yearly without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non-taxpayers. The rate quoted applies to balances on Business Accounts of £1,000,000 and over. Rates correct at date of going to press - 6/04/98. Rates may vary. Standard Life Bank Limited is a company registered in Scotland (number SC178385) Registered Office: Standard Life House 30 Lothian Road Edinburgh EH1 2DH. Standard Life Bank Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Standard Life Assurance Company and is a member of the Standard Life Group of companies. For your protection, telephone calls will be recorded. We may also monitor telephone calls to help us improve customer service. Standard Life Bank Limited is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the Scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment in any one depositor of £16,000 per ECU 20,000 of account. Further details of the Scheme are available on request.

مأخوذ من الأصل

Market feels joys of spring

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Worried about the soaring pound, Asian blues, high interest rates and plunging economic growth? The stock market isn't. Warnings about the historic over-valuation of share prices at the turn of the year have been swept aside, just as they were a year earlier.

A tide of money has been slurping into virtually every advanced country stock market west of the Urals. The FTSE 100 share index of blue chips climbed by more than a sixth in the first quarter, having risen a fifth during the whole of 1997. You hardly need ask what has happened in New York or Frankfurt. Price rises there have been uncannily similar.

Valuations have become ever more extreme by historical standards. Top shares in London, New York and on the Continent sell at well over 20 times earnings. London ratings are now among the highest, mainly because company profits are not keeping up as well. That makes it tougher for London shares to progress as the UK economy slows sharply while continental economies gently accelerate. The dividend yield on the average FTSE 100 share has plunged to 2.3 per cent, helped on its way by the tax depredations of the beloved Gordon Brown.

Bears have been confounded, however, because the financial background to the boom continues to be much more supportive than the economic. Cashflows are so strong that companies contuinue to pay money back to shareholders rather than touching them for billions via rights issues and flotations, as is normal near the end of a bull market. Share buybacks may have slowed but BTR, for instance, is about to put £1.5 billion back into investors' pockets.

Long-term interest rates are still on a downtrend thanks to increasing faith that inflation will remain low in developed countries. This underwrites shares as long as the economy continues to grow and helps investors to shrug off the UK's high local short-term rates. Mega-mergers, along with many smaller exercises in financial engineering, are also helping big companies to outpace the economies in which they operate.

This will not convince bears. At least they can console themselves, and frighten everyone else, with the thought that UK stocks are particularly vulnerable to any setback.

Not quite such a wonderful Liffe

Frankfurt's ambition to become the financial centre of a unified Europe may be openly derided in some quarters of the City. But the attempt to bring an end to Liffe, as we know it, shows that the Germans have the will to take control of important markets through the collective might of their financial institutions.

Few derivatives traders in London would challenge the suggestion that the Deutsche TerminBörse's seizure of the market for German bund futures has been inspired by the exchange's ultimate owners: the network of regional and national banks that own the Frankfurt börse.

While earnings at the Frankfurt stock exchange have risen by an average of 30 to 40 per cent year-on-year, its shareholders have been content to see no increase in dividends. More importantly, they have sanctioned a DM35 million (£11.5 million) waiver in fees by the derivatives operation to ensure its control of bund futures.

Against such tactics, it is extremely difficult for Liffe to compete, especially given its antiquated membership structure. Frankfurt's challenge has exposed the tangled web of vested interests at Liffe — often at odds with each other — and the management board's inability to reconcile those interests.

Liffe will next week take the first big step to avoid losing its pre-eminent position in European derivatives when it holds an EGM to debate corporate governance. However, many traders believe this will be too little, too late, just as its decision three weeks ago to cut transaction fees was too late to rescue its leadership of the bund futures market.

One possibility under consideration at Liffe is a £500 million flotation. But really it should look again at merging with the Stock Exchange. Surely DTB's aggressive marketing, which would be condemned as predatory pricing if practised by British newspapers, argues for a consolidation of London exchanges. Until now, the tussle between DTB and Liffe has focused on the benefits of electronic trading versus the flexibility of open outcry dealing. But ownership structure, size and collective investment are equally important issues.

The start of the Citigroup break-up

While many have been questioning the logic of bringing Citicorp and Travelers together to create a financial supermarket, few have actually considered that the edifice of Sanford Weill and John Reed may not actually exist for long. There is a strong argument to say that the structure of Citigroup is unsustainable and the group will break up within a couple of years of actually being formed.

Why? The answer is twofold — first pay, and secondly the volatility of Travelers' earnings. What is coming together is a commercial bank, an insurance company and a securities firm, Salomon Smith Barney. Studies by SCA, the consulting group, have shown that in "intellectually intensive" financial services, companies pay most of their rewards to their staff and the shareholders get little better than the cost of capital. Staff in the insurance and commercial banking parts of Citigroup may find the multi-million-dollar packages of their colleagues difficult to swallow, especially given Salomon's legendary earnings volatility, which could have an impact on bonus payments across the Citigroup organisation.

Citigroup will have an amplified version of the problems that have afflicted NatWest and Barclays. The pressure that led to the bargain-basement sales of BZW and NatWest Markets will be amplified at Citigroup. While it may make sense to combine an insurer and a commercial bank, do not be surprised to see Salomon Smith Barney leave the Citigroup fold before long.

Morrison monitors climate for cheap children's clothes

By Sam Jary

WM MORRISON, Britain's sixth-largest supermarket chain, has followed rival Asda into the clothing market by launching own-label children's wear, which it claims will allow parents to clothe two children for less than £10.

More than 80 stores across the country are selling such bargains as a double pack of cycle shorts for £4.49 and a two-pack of polo shirts for £5.99.

The two brands, designed for under-eights, are GIM (Girls in Morrison) and Gola, a sports label, for boys. They are intended to be cheap. Morrison said its aim was to test the market before committing to any long-term investment. It denied having plans to expand into adult clothing and take on Asda's George range, created by George Davies, founder of Next.

It said: "At the moment we are dipping our toes in the water to see how it works and assess the sales value. This is a small but concise collection being marketed very aggressively at extremely attractive prices."

If the range proves a hit, Morrison will launch a similarly priced "Back To School" range in the autumn, with a winter update to follow.

This foray into the clothing market is the latest in a series of bold moves, which include a multimillion-pound expansion and development programme to create seven new superstores and 2,400 jobs.

Last summer it became the first UK supermarket to have a bank branch in its shops, in partnership with Midland.

Asda moved into the clothing market eight years ago, and now devotes nearly a fifth of its floorspace to its fast-growing George range which commands 2 per cent of the entire UK clothing market. J Sainsbury and Tesco share 1.2 per cent between them.

Asda is challenging Bhs for sixth place in the UK clothing industry. Its goal is to reach second spot behind Marks & Spencer, the market leader.

Currently sixth in the supermarket ranking table by turnover, Morrison has identified the non-food market as a fast-growing area.

Indonesia courts IMF with reform package

THE Indonesian Government yesterday unveiled a 117-point reform programme designed to cure the country's crippling economic problems and ensure the support of the International Monetary Fund (Alasdair Murray writes).

The Indonesian rupiah strengthened to 7,750 to the dollar, from 8,450, but markets remained sceptical about President Suharto's commitment to the deal.

Making no reference to the controversial currency board designed to support the rupiah, the deal will see the Government introduce anti-monopoly laws and a more transparent and competitive bidding process for public sector contracts.



Classics such as *Gone With the Wind* will grow in value as demand increases from the many new channels

Golden oldies shine in digital age

A FILM such as *Titanic* can take $1.4 billion (£800 million) at the box office, but film libraries in the digital age will also be worth their weight in gold, says a new report (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Film & TV Rights 1998, published yesterday, estimates that the film libraries of the seven main Hollywood studios — Columbia, MGM, Paramount, Twentieth Century Fox, Universal, Walt Disney and Warner Bros — may have a total market value of $40 billion. The libraries could also be exploited for up to $7 billion a year across the globe.

The report — by Market Tracking International, the research organisation, in association with *TV World* and *Screen International*, the trade magazines — argues that by 2002 more than 4,400 films will be produced throughout the world at a cost of more than $19 billion.

The value of programme libraries will be boosted by the growing number of outlets in need of content. Cable and satellite television will expand further and will be joined, the report argues, by Internet television and the broadcasting interests of leading telecommunications operators.

"With more channels in place there will be an increased demand for content, which could see the price of popular programming grow substantially," the report says. This could, however, have the effect of pushing down the price of less popular programmes.

Opec faces glut despite cutback in production

By Carl Mortished

EMBATTLED Opec oil producers face a supply glut in the second quarter of the year despite the oil cartel's production-cutting agreement.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) said yesterday that crude supplies would far exceed demand, with stocks from Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries remaining high and causing problems for exporters.

Figures published by the IEA show that the pact to reduce oil output, led by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and signed in Riyadh, is likely to have little impact on the market, with global demand down as a result of the mild weather and a sharp reduction in Korean consumption.

Oil prices failed to sustain the levels to which they rallied after the reduction in output by Opec. Before the agreement, market oversupply was reckoned to be some 3.5 million barrels per day, while the Riyadh agreement generated cuts worth just 1.25 million barrels among Opec members.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

May	1038-1037	Jul	1159-1156
Jul	1057-1056	Sep	1175 SLR
Sep	1079-1077	Dec	unq
Dec	1100 SLR		
Mar	1124 SLR		
May	1141 BID	Volume:	6932

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1915-1900	Jan	unq
Jul	1850 BID	Mar	—
Sep	1915-1806	May	—
Nov	1775 SLR	Volume:	4833

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	271.3-70.3
Spot 255.6		Mar	277.3-74.8
May	255.0-53.8	May	282.3-76.7
Aug	259.6-59.3	Aug	290.3-77.0
Oct	266.3-65.8	Volume:	4805

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 8

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	66.29	100.38	85.49
(+/-)	-3.87	+8.92	-1.75
Eng/Wales:	66.29	105.30	84.28
(+/-)	-3.67	+7.65	-1.81
(%)	-6.0	-26.0	-6.0
Scotland:	unq	99.62	91.17
(+/-)	—	+11.39	-2.85
(%)	—	-49.0	+19.0

ICIS-LOR (London 8.30pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.40	+0.15
Brent 15 day (May)	14.00	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jun)	14.35	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (May)	15.55	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	15.85	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	156 (+5)	159 (+9)
Gasoil EEC	135 (+3)	137 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	71 (+3)	73 (+2)
Naphtha	124 (n/c)	127 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	134.50-34.75	Aug	142.00-42.25
Jun	136.50-36.75	Sep	144.75-45.25
Jul	139.25-39.50	Vol:	12201

BRENT (8.15pm)

May	14.00-14.01	Aug	14.95 BID
Jun	n/a	Sep	15.34 SLR
Jul	14.66 SLR	Vol:	47635

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	72.80	May	73.00
Jul	74.75	Sep	72.25
Sep	74.00	Nov	74.25
Nov	76.00	Jan	76.25
Jan	78.00	Mar	78.25
Volume:	89	Volume:	46

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	70.0	68.0
Jun	unq	80.0
Nov	—	54.0
	Volume:	31

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 48.00-48.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 98	1040	1040	1040
May 98	1070	1065	1065
Jun 98	unq	—	1025
Jul 98	unq	—	965
Vol: 26 lots		Open Interest:	1421

Index 966 +5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1739.0-1740.0	1752.0-1753.0	1916775
Lead ($/tonne)	580.00-581.00	581.00-582.00	370975
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1118.0-1118.5	1140.0-1140.5	542225
Tin ($/tonne)	5630.0-5640.0	5600.0-5610.0	27115
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1405.5-1406.0	1434.0-1435.0	1703450
Nickel ($/tonne)	5275.0-5280.0	5375.0-5380.0	82452

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
ASDA	200	18	27½	33½	—	6½	9½
(*217½)	220	3½	16	23½	5	15	18½
Abbey Nat	1200	19½	103	137	14	74½	103
(*1204½)	1250	3½	77½	112½	49	100½	128½
All&Lei	900	15½	61½	87	16½	52	69
(*909)	950	1	40½	65	56	81	97
Alld Dom	600	32½	52½	70½	1½	24½	31½
(*631)	650	4½	27½	45	23	50½	56½
BAA	600	31½	55	65½	1½	23	28½
(*630½)	650	3½	29	43½	23	47½	52½
BAT Ind	550	13½	48	62	7½	34½	45½
(*556)	600	2	26½	41	45	63	74
Barclays	1800	32	144	199	21½	103½	144½
(*1806)	1900	2	98½	152	96	159	197½
Bass	1150	35	87	118	9½	56	70½
(*1172½)	1200	11	61½	91	35½	81½	95
Boots	950	22	63½	88½	8	44	58
(*962½)	1000	3	40½	65	40	72	85
Br Airways	600	19	46½	64½	4½	31½	42½
(*614½)	650	1½	26	42	37	60½	70½
BP	850	41	80½	104	5	33½	48
(*888)	900	11½	54½	78½	23	56	72
Br Steel	140	5	12½	16	1	10½	14
(*144½)	160	—	4½	8	15½	24	26½
C&W	700	38½	80	98	2½	29½	45½
(*736½)	750	7	53½	75½	21	52½	68
CU	1200	43	117½	149	11½	64	82½
(*1231)	1250	16½	93	124½	34	88½	108½
GlaxoW	1700	51	161	209½	8½	88	136
(*1745½)	1800	7½	111½	161½	59½	137	176
HSBC	1900	81	207	268½	4½	100	148½
(*1976½)	2000	17½	158½	217½	41½	148½	197½
Halifax	850	34	78	100	4½	37	48
(*879)	900	6½	52½	74½	28	60½	72
ICI	1050	42	95½	121	2	38½	60½
(*1088)	1100	11½	69	95	20½	62½	84
Land Sec	1050	27	72	96½	8½	56	64
(*1067)	1100	5½	49	72½	37½	83	90½
M&S	550	46	60	76½	—	15½	23
(*596)	600	6½	31	50½	12	36½	44
Natl Pwr	550	17	44½	62½	10	42½	48
(*555)	600	4½	23	43½	46	74½	79
Nat West	1150	20	99	126½	14	73½	95
(*1136)	1200	4	74½	104½	47½	99½	120½
Reuters	645	26	61	84½	3½	30	46½
(*667)	703	2	33½	57½	37½	61	76½
Ry&Sun	750	37½	81	103	4½	34	55½
(*781½)	800	10	55½	78½	27	58½	80
Safeway	360	10	26	40	5	25½	32½
(*357)	390	1	15½	28½	24½	42	48½
Sainsbury	500	13½	32	47½	5	25	30
(*508½)	550	—	13	26	42	56½	59½
Shell	420	25	38½	50	2	15	23½
(*444½)	460	2	19½	30½	17½	35	43½
SmKl Bch	750	58½	98	125½	3	39	56
(*798½)	800	12	72	102	18½	63	80
Std Chart	950	28½	105½	145½	13½	77	103½
(*964½)	1000	7½	83½	122½	43	103	129
Thames W	950	40	76	96½	3	34½	45½
(*988½)	1000	7½	48½	73½	21½	59½	69½
Vodafone	600	26½	63½	84	6	34	45
(*621½)	650	4	38½	59½	33	61	70½
Woolwich	354	17½	37½	47	1½	16½	22½
(*369½)	384	2½	22	34	16½	31½	37½
Zeneca	2700	43½	187	274	40	149	189½
(*2705)	2800	6	138	223	106	201	239

	Series	Jul	Oct	—	Jul	Oct	—
Reed Intl	600	56	72½	—	23½	35	—
(*622½)	650	32½	49	—	49½	60½	—

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BTR	200	14½	25½	30	8½	14	19½
(*205½)	220	6½	17	21	20	25	30½
Blue Circ	330	35½	53½	58½	6	18	21
(*358)	360	18	36½	43	18	31½	35
Br Aero	1900	111	191½	246	50½	100½	131½
(*1946½)	2000	61½	141	196	101½	149½	182
Br Telcm	650	33	54½	69½	21	40	48
(*656½)	700	13	32½	48	50½	67½	76
Cadbury	850	48½	77½	95	22	38½	49½
(*872½)	900	23½	52	69	47½	63	73
Carlton Cms	460	21½	38½	51½	16	29	35
(*462½)	500	7	22	34½	41½	53	59
Energy Gp	800	44½	46½	50½	2	3	6½
(*841½)	850	5½	9	15	14½	20½	21
Gallaher	300	25½	39½	45	7	14½	22
(*317½)	330	11	23½	30½	20½	28½	37
GEC	420	26	38	48½	11	22½	28
(*433½)	460	8	20	30½	32½	44	50

	Series	May	—	—	May	—	—
Diageo PLC	613	130	—	—	1	—	—
(*738½)	671	76½	—	—	6½	—	—

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Diageo PLC	671	78	103	—	7	20½	—
(*738½)	729	38½	67	—	25	42½	—
Hanson	330	29	38½	46½	5	12½	18½
(*351)	360	12½	22½	30½	18	26	32½
Imp Tob	430	29½	38½	50	8	17	22½
(*439)	460	9½	20	30½	28	38½	43½
Kingfshr	1050	77½	111	136½	21½	40½	52½
(*1096)	1100	49	83	110½	41½	63	75½
Lasmo	240	20½	31	39	6	14	15½
(*253½)	260	9½	21	27	14	21½	25½
Ladbroke	300	25½	39	46½	9	15½	19½
(*317)	330	10½	23½	32	23	30	34½
LucasVar	240	22½	32½	39	6	13	14½
(*257½)	260	10½	22	29	14	22½	24
P&O	850	45½	75	88½	17½	35	47½
(*871½)	900	20½	48½	62½	42½	59	71½
Prudentl	900	74½	112	133½	22	46	63
(*945½)	950	46	85½	108½	43½	70	87
Rio Tinto	750	58½	91	111½	14	33	52
(*788½)	800	30	65	86	35	58½	73
Redland	330	15½	16½	—	½	0½	—
(*345)	360	½	0½	—	15½	15½	—
R-Royce	260	19½	32	40½	7½	18½	22
(*273½)	280	9	22	31	17½	27	32
Tesco	550	34½	54	67	10½	22½	27
(*576½)	600	11	29	42	37	46½	52
Utd Bisc	240	15	24½	28	5½	10½	15
(*247)	260	6	15	18½	17½	21	25

	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
BG PLC	283	25½	—	—	10	—	—
(*298½)	306	14	—	—	20½	—	—
BSkyB	420	35½	50	63½	20½	31	39
(*430½)	460	18½	32½	45½	42½	53	60½
Br Bio	60	12	18	21½	8½	11	13½
(*63)	70	8	15	18	14	18½	19½
Centrica	110	10	15	18½	5	8	9
(*113)	120	6	10½	14	10	13½	14
Dixons	500	50½	65	80½	15½	27	31
(*531½)	550	23	40	56	38	51½	55½
EMI	460	58½	69	83	14½	30½	38
(*495)	500	36½	49	64½	32	50½	58
Granada	1050	81	109½	134	27	44½	57½
(*1091½)	1100	52½	82	107½	49	68	81
GUS	750	72½	87	108	18½	31	44
(*794)	800	43½	60	82	39½	53	67½
Lloyds TSB	1000	80½	115½	143½	48½	74	89½
(*1019)	1050	56	90½	119	74½	98½	114½
Lonrho	100	9	14	—	5½	9½	—
(*103½)	110	5	9½	—	11	14½	—
Norwich	460	30½	56½	67½	19½	30	37
(*480½)	500	22½	37½	48½	42	57	57½
Orange	390	49	64½	76½	15	23½	33½
(*413½)	420	32½	49½	62	27	37½	48
Railtrck	1000	81½	111	134	43½	65	80
(*1025½)	1050	57½	86½	109½	67½	90	104
Scot Pwr	500	58	71	83	17½	26	31½
(*540)	550	30½	46	58½	41½	50½	56
Tarmac	110	7½	11½	13	5½	8	10
(*111)	120	3½	7½	9	11½	13½	16
Tomkins	330	29½	37½	43	8½	15½	18
(*347½)	360	13	22	28½	21½	30	34
Unilever	600	44½	61	74	16	24	36
(*624)	650	20½	38½	49½	42½	50	61½

April 9 Total: 21425 Calls: 11213 Puts: 10212

FTSE INDEX (*6080)

Strike	Calls Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Dec	Puts Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Dec
5950	165	271	354	408½	—	18	99½	158½	188½	—
6000	123½	234	322	379	621½	26½	113	176	208	337½
6050	87	202	291½	348	—	40	134	195	227½	—
6100	57	171½	260	317½	561½	60½	154	216½	248	377½
6150	34	142½	232½	287½	—	89½	177	238½	270½	—
6200	18½	119	203½	258½	500	126½	207	265	294½	421
6250	9½	98½	179½	237½	—	171	236	294½	325	—

April 9 Total: 1800 Calls: 1000 Puts: 800

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 98	109-11	109-17	109-00	109-13	60976
Previous open interest 0	Sep 98				109.41	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	107.58	107.94	107.56	107.82	59949
Previous open interest 186146	Sep 98				107.49	0
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	103.10	103.16	103.02	103.15	601
Previous open interest 11042	Sep 98				104.50	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	119.58	119.85	119.54	119.67	30773
Previous open interest 133697	Sep 98				120.07	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	129.41	129.54	129.24	129.46	2510
	Sep 98				129.36	0
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.53	92.56	92.51	92.53	24537
	Sep 98	92.69	92.71	92.65	92.68	18182
Previous open interest 867039	Dec 98	92.86	92.89	92.82	92.85	18297
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.240	96.265	96.240	96.250	41997
Previous open interest 2212626	Sep 98	96.100	96.125	96.100	96.110	28636
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.24	95.31	95.23	95.29	35875
Previous open interest 946897	Sep 98	95.75	95.78	95.74	95.78	21733
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.36	98.40	98.33	98.39	8926
Previous open interest 141036	Sep 98	98.15	98.21	98.13	98.20	4674
Three Mth ECU	Jun 98	95.77	95.79	95.77	95.77	834
Previous open interest 48709	Sep 98	95.82	95.82	95.79	95.81	314
FTSE 100	Jun 98	6085.0	6159.0	6085.0	6149.0	16441
Previous open interest 155488	Sep 98	6190.0	6200.0	6190.0	6229.0	1750

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 5 Week fixed: 7⅛

Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 7 ; 3 mth 7 . Sell: 2 mth 6¾ ; 3 mth 6¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7¼

Overnight: open 7¼, close 5 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	7⅛	n/a	7¼	7¼	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7¼
Dollar CDs:	5.56	n/a	5.55	5.61	5.70
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7¼	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5⅝	5¼-4½
Deutschemark:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3⅝	4-3
French Franc:	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3⅝	3⅝-3⅝	3⅝-2¼
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-1⅛	1⅛-⅛
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $308.20-308.60 Close: $309.00-309.50 High: $309.00-309.50 Low: $307.30-307.80 AM: $308.35 PM: $307.65

Krugerrand: $314.00-316.00 (£189.00-191.00)

Platinum: $419.00 (£250.50) Silver: $6.395 (£3.825) Palladium: $286.50 (£171.31)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 9	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4246-3.4334	3.4265-3.4294	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	62.720-62.900	62.724-62.846	20-17pr	60-55pr
Copenhagen	11.599-11.625	11.599-11.611	¼-¼pr	1-¼pr
Dublin	1.2046-1.2115	1.2061-1.2086	13-6pr	45-35pr
Frankfurt	3.0414-3.0483	3.0422-3.0448	1-¾pr	2¼-2¼pr
Lisbon	311.28-312.28	311.28-311.81	¼-¼pr	2¼-2¼pr
Madrid	257.82-258.79	257.82-258.48	71-61pr	199-181pr
Milan	3004.9-3008.9	3004.9-3008.9	52-37pr	173-152pr
Montreal	2.3746-2.3935	2.3866-2.3889	0.54-0.49pr	1.09-1.01pr
New York	1.6686-1.6782	1.6740-1.6750	0.258-0.237pr	0.755-0.725pr
Oslo	12.610-12.660	12.617-12.633	¼-¼pr	1¼-¾pr
Paris	10.189-10.221	10.196-10.205	¼-¼pr	7/8-¾pr
Stockholm	13.143-13.233	13.143-13.160	¼-¼pr	¼-¼pr
Tokyo	217.65-222.54	217.70-217.91	1¼-1¼pr	3¼-3¼pr
Vienna	21.389-21.448	21.403-21.423	¼-¼pr	2¼-1¼pr
Zurich	2.5254-2.5369	2.5277-2.5309	1¼-1¼pr	3¼-3¼pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	0.6562 - 0.6567
Austria	12.76-12.77
Belgium (Com)	37.39-37.45
Canada	1.4252-1.4257
Denmark	6.9072-6.9092
France	6.0742-6.0752
Germany	1.8120-1.8124
Hong Kong	7.7485-7.7495
Ireland	1.3877-1.3927
Italy	1789.0-1790.5
Japan	129.60-129.65
Malaysia	3.6200-3.6400
Netherlands	2.0412-2.0417
Norway	7.5228-7.5248
Portugal	185.80-185.90
Singapore	1.5880-1.5910
Spain	153.63-153.93
Sweden	7.8697-7.8787
Switzerland	1.5052-1.5062

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6750-1.6777
Australia dollar	2.5472-2.5526
Bahrain dinar	0.6235-0.6375
Brazil real*	1.9037-1.9066
China yuan	13.712-14.021
Cyprus pound	0.8795-0.8995
Finland markka	9.1550-9.3040
Greece drachma	521.25-533.35
Hong Kong dollar	13.0066-13.0161
India rupee	65.45-66.95
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5035-0.5165
Malaysia ringgit	6.0729-6.1101
New Zealand dollar	3.0205-3.0261
Pakistan rupee	72.70 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0250-6.1620
Singapore dollar	2.6598-2.6698
S Africa rand (com)	8.3360-8.5230
U A E dirham	6.0775-6.2155

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	383	LASMO	2,719
ASDA Gp	12,732	Legal & Gn	1,151
Abbey Ntl	13,089	Lloyds TSB	8,906
Allied Dom	3,154	LucasVarity	1,252
Allnce & Leic	5,995	Marks Spr	3,972
Amvescap	378	Nat Grid	2,275
AB Foods	394	Nat Power	3,245
Bk of Scot	1,333	NatWst Bk	2,512
BAA	2,863	Next	900
Barclays	2,135	Nrwch Un	11,470
Bass	1,259	Nycomed Amr	257
BAT Inds	5,004	Orange	1,048
BG	11,773	P & O	2,621
Billiton	813	Pearson	306
Blue Circle	6,635	PowerGen	684
BOC	724	Prudential	2,845
Boots	1,186	Railtrack	1,151
BAe	980	Rank Group	1,336
BA	2,356	Reckitt Col	818
Brit Energy	1,953	Reed Intl	3,752
Br Land	1,083	Rentokil	9,647
BP	4,866	Reuters	12,492
Brit Steel	9,051	Rio Tinto	1,735
BSkyB	1,018	Rolls Royce	4,110
BT	5,665	Royal & Sun	2,392
BTR	33,574	Royal Bk Sct	1,382
Cable Wire	3,661	Safeway	6,124
Cadbury	1,222	Sainsbury	2,279
Carlton Cms	1,226	Schroders	45
Centrica	3,642	Scot & New	1,472
Cm Union	1,287	Scot Power	1,863
Compass Gp	534	Svrn Trent	1,502
Diageo	2,957	Shell Trans	10,558
EMI	2,097	Siebe	1,094
Energy Gp	1,372	Smiths Ind	343
Enterpr Oil	1,167	SmKl Bch	8,440
Gen Acc	613	Std Chartd	3,860
Gen Elec	13,043	Sun Life	453
GKN	578	Tesco	3,979
Glaxo Well	4,541	Thames W	631
Granada	983	Tomkins	4,755
GUS	2,682	Unilever	3,011
GRE	1,853	Utd News	1,689
Hays	290	Utd Utilities	1,550
ICI	3,208	Vodafone	5,084
Kingfisher	711	Whitbread	389
HSBC	2,880	Williams	688
Halifax	13,245	Wolseley	824
Ladbroke	5,554	Woolwich	2,350
Land Secs	660	Zeneca	804

WALL STREET

	Apr 9 close	Apr 8 close
AMP Inc	40¼	40¼
AMR Corp	137⅞	138⅞
AT & T	66	65¾
Abbott Labs	76¼	75¾
Advanced Micro	28¾	27⅜
Aetna Life	87	86¼
Ahmanson (HF)	78¼	78⅞
Air Prod & Chem	82¼	82⅝
AirTouch Comm	50	49⅞
Albertson's	50⅞	51¼
Alcan Alumnm	31¼	30¾
Allied Signal	45¼	45⅜
Alum Co of Am	70⅝	68¾
Amerada Hess	55¾	55⅜
AEP	49⅝	49
Amer Express	105¼	103⅞
Amer Genl Corp	66⅜	64⅞
Amer Home Pr	94¼	93¾
Amer Intl	127¼	124¾
Amer Stores	24¾	24⅛
Amer Standard	46¼	45¾
Ameritech	46⅞	46⅝
Amgen	57⅝	57⅞
Amoco	85⅞	84¼
Andrew Corp	19⅜	19⅝
Anheuser-Busch	48¾	47⅝
Apple Computer	25¾	25
Archer Daniels	21⅝	21¼
Armco	6¼	6⅝
Armstrng Wrld	84⅞	84¾
Asarco	26¾	26⅝
Atl Richfield	75⅝	75¾
Avnet Corp	18⅝	17⅞
Auto Data Pro	65¼	64⅞
Avery Dennison	53⅞	53¾
Avon Products	81⅛	81
Baker Hughes	39⅝	39⅛
Baltim Gas & El	32¼	32¾
Banc One	61¼	61¾
BankAmerica	86¼	84¾
Bank of NY	64	62⅞
Bankers Tr NY	128¾	124⅞
Bausch & Lomb	49⅝	48¼
Baxter Intl	55¼	56
Becton Dicknsn	70⅝	70
Bell Atlantic	96⅞	96⅝
BellSouth	66⅜	65⅝
Best Foods	116¼	116⅝
Black & Decker	52¼	53
Block (H&R)	47¼	46⅞
Boeing	55⅝	55¼
Boise Cascade	35⅞	35¾
Boston Scien	68¼	69
Bristol Myrs Sq	103⅞	104⅝
Browning Ferris	33¾	33⅝
Brunswick	33⅝	33
Burlington Nthn	98¼	97¼
CMS Energy Corp	46¼	46¼
CSX	57⅝	56⅝
CBS Corp	35⅝	35⅝
Campbell Soup	52⅞	52¾
Carolina Pwr	44¼	43⅝
Case Corp	69⅝	66⅝
Caterpillar	54⅝	54¾
Central & SW	26⅝	26¼
Champion Intl	50⅝	52⅝
Chase Manhat	141¾	140¼
Chevron Corp	80⅝	79⅝
Chrysler	43¾	42⅞
Chubb Corp	80¼	80¾
Cigna Corp	205¼	204¼
Citicorp	165¼	164¼
Clorox	87⅝	87¼
Coastal Corp	68⅝	67¾
Coca Cola	78⅝	78⅝
Coca Cola Ent	38	38⅝
Colgate-Palm	85¼	84¾
Columbia Energy	79¾	80
ColumbiaHCA	32⅞	32⅞
Compaq Comp	24¼	24⅝
Comp Ass Intl	56¾	55⅝
Conagra	30⅞	30¾
Cons Edison	45⅝	45⅝
Cons Nat Gas	58¼	58⅝
Cooper Inds	65⅞	65⅞
Corestates	90⅞	88¾
Corning Inc	39⅞	39¼
C'wide Credit	52¼	52¼
Crestar Finl	61	59⅝
Crown Cork	52¾	51⅝
Dana Corp	59⅝	58¼
Dayton Hudson	85⅝	84¾
Deere	59¾	59¾
Delta Air Lines	115⅝	113¾
Deluxe Corp	31¾	31¾
Digital Equip	51¾	51¾
Dillard Dept St	36⅞	36¾
Disney (Walt)	109	107
Dominion Res	40¾	40⅞
Donelley (RR)	43⅝	43¾
Dover Corp	36	36¼
Dow Chemical	96¾	95¼
Dow Jones	53	53¾
Dresser	47⅞	48¾
Duke Energy	59⅞	58¼
Dun & Bradstreet	34¼	34¾
Du Pont	74⅛	71⅛
Eastman Chem	70⅝	69¼
Eastman Kodak	64⅞	64
Eaton Corp	92¼	92
Edison Intl	29⅝	28¼
Elect Data Sys	44⅝	44
Emerson Elec	66¾	66
Engelhard Corp	19¼	19¾
Enron Corp	47¼	45⅞
Entergy	28⅝	29¾
Ethyl Corp	7⅝	7¾
Exxon	66¼	66¾
FDX Holding	72⅝	70¾
FMC Corp	79⅝	79
FPL Group	62¼	62⅝
Fifth Third Banc	86¾	85¾
Fleet Finl Grp	84⅝	84¼
Fluor Corp	46⅞	47¾
Ford Motor	46¼	44¾
Fort James	49⅝	49¾
Fortune Brands	40⅝	41¾
Franklin Res	56⅝	57⅝
GTE Corp	60¼	59⅝
Gannett	74⅝	74¾
Gap Inc Del	46⅝	45
Gateway 2000	47¾	46¾
Gen Dynamics	44	44⅞
Gen Electric	86¾	86¼
Gen Mills	74⅞	74⅝
Gen Motors	67⅝	66⅝
Gen Reinsurance	225¾	224
Gen Signal	45⅝	45¾
Genuine Parts	37⅝	37¾
Georgia Pac	65⅝	66¾
Gillette	120⅞	119¼
Glaxo Welc ADR	58⅝	58⅝
Goodrich (BF)	50⅝	50⅞
Goodyear Tire	71¼	70¼
Great Lakes	53¾	53⅞
Halliburton	49⅞	50⅝
Harcourt General	54⅞	54¾
Heinz (HJ)	59	58⅝
Hercules	49⅝	49⅝
Hershey Foods	70⅝	74⅝
Hewlett Packard	61⅝	60¼
Hilton Hotels	31¼	31¼
Home Depot	70⅞	69
Homestake Mng	11¾	11⅞
Honeywell	86¼	83¾
Household Intl	142¾	139⅞
Houston Inds	29¾	29⅝
Humana	26⅝	26¾
Ikon Office	35⅝	35⅝
Illinois Tool	63⅝	62¾
Illinova	29¾	30
INCO	18¾	18¾
Ingersoll Rand	51⅝	51¾
Inland Steel	26⅞	26⅞
Intel Corp	73¼	72⅝
IBM	106⅞	104¾
Intl Flav & Fr	45¾	46
Intl Paper	49⅝	48¾
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	74⅝	73⅞
Kellogg	41⅞	41¾
Kerr-McGee	66⅞	66⅞
Kimberly-Clark	48⅝	48⅞
Kmart	17⅝	17⅞
Knight-Ridder	55⅞	54⅝
Lilly (Eli)	64⅝	64⅞
Limited Inc	30⅞	29¾
Lincoln Nat	89¼	89⅝
Litton	60⅝	59¼
Liz Claiborne	49⅝	49¾
Lockheed Martin	109	109
Louisiana Pac	21¾	21¾
MCI Comm	50⅝	49¼
Manpower Inc	40⅝	40
Marriott Int	36¾	36⅝
Marsh & McLnn	89⅝	88⅝
Masco Corp	59⅝	60⅝
May Dept St	64⅝	62¾
Maytag Corp	52⅝	52
McDonalds	62⅝	61
McGraw Hill	75¾	74¾
Mead Corp	33⅞	34¾
Meditrust Corp	31⅝	31
Medtronic	53¾	53¾
Mellon Bk	69⅝	66⅞
Merck Inc	126¼	127¼
Mercury Fin	0⅝	0¾
Merrill Lynch	94⅞	92⅞
Microsoft	89	88⅞
Minnesota Mine	94⅝	92¾
Mirage Resorts	22⅞	22⅝
Mobil Corp	76¼	75⅞
Monsanto	56⅞	56⅞
Morgan (JP)	140⅞	137¾
Motorola Inc	54	54⅞
Mylan Labs	25	23¾
Natl Semi	21¾	22¾
Natl Service Ind	57¼	59¾
Navistar Int	33¼	32⅝
NY Times A	70⅝	70⅝
Newmont Mng	32¼	33¾
Nike B	44¾	43⅞
NL Industries	17⅝	17¾
Nordstrom	61⅝	60¾
Norfolk Sthrn	35¾	36¼
Nthn State Pwr	58⅝	58¼
Norwest Corp	42	41¼
Occidental Pet	29	28⅞
Office Depot	30¼	29⅞
Oracle	26⅞	27⅝
Oryx Energy Co	25⅝	25
Owens Corning	35¼	35¼
PPG Industries	69¾	68⅝
PMI Group	79¾	79¾
PNC Bank	61¼	60¼
PP&L Res	24	23⅝
Paccar Inc	61⅞	62¼
Pacificorp	23⅝	23¼
Pac Enterprises	40⅝	39⅝
PaineWebber	44	42⅝
Pall Corp	20¾	20¼
Parker Hannifin	49⅞	49⅞
Peco Energy	21¼	21¾
Penney (JC)	74¾	74¾
Pennzoil	66⅝	66¾
Pepsico	42¾	42⅝
Pfizer	99¼	98⅝
Pharm & Upjhn	44¾	44¼
Phelps Dodge	67¾	65¾
Philip Morris	40¾	39¼
Phillips Pet	49¾	49¼
Pitney Bowes	50¼	49¼
Polaroid	42¼	41⅞
Procter & Gmbl	86¼	86⅝
Providian	61⅝	60¾
Pub Serv E & G	36⅝	36¼
Quaker Oats	57¼	56⅝
Ralston Purina	103¼	102¼
Raychem Corp	41⅝	41¼
Raytheon B	59¾	56⅞
Reebok Intl	31⅞	30¾
Reliastar Fin	47¼	47¼
Reynolds Metals	61⅞	61⅞
Rockwell Intl	56	55⅞
Rohm & Haas	107⅝	104⅝
Royal Dutch	57¾	56⅞
Rubbermaid	29⅝	29¾
SBC Comms	41⅝	41⅝
Safeco Corp	54⅝	54⅞
St Paul's Cos	87¾	87¼
Sara Lee Corp	62¾	62¼
Schering Plough	82¼	82¼
Schlumberger	74⅝	74¾
Seagram	38	37¼
Sears Roebuck	55⅝	55½
Shell Trans	44⅞	43⅞
Sherwin Wlms	35⅝	35¼
Silicon Graphics	15¼	14⅞
Snap-On-Tools	45¾	45⅝
Southern Co	27¼	27⅝
Southtrust	42¾	42¼
Sprint Corp	67¾	66¾
Stanley Works	54⅞	54⅝
Starwood H & R	52¾	53¼
Sun Company	40⅝	42⅝
Sun Microsys	39⅝	39¼
Suntrust	75¾	73¼
Supervalu	45⅞	45¼
Synovus Fin	36	36
Sysco Corp	24¾	25¾
TRW Inc	54¾	54¾
TIG Hldgs	27¼	27
Tandy Corp	48¾	47⅞
Temple Inland	60¼	60¼
Tenet Healthcare	39	38¼
Tenneco	43¼	43
Texaco	60⅞	61¾
Texas Inst	52¼	52⅞
Texas Utilities	41¾	41⅝
Textron	80¼	79¼
Thermo Elect	41⅝	40¼
Time Warner	75	75⅝
Times-Mirror A	62	61¼
Timken	34⅝	34¾
Torchmark	47¾	47¾
Toys R Us	29⅝	28⅞
Transamerica	119⅝	119⅝
Travelers	67¼	67⅝
Tribune	69⅞	69⅝
UST Inc	29⅝	30¼
US Bancorp	125¾	124¾
UAL	92⅝	92⅝
Unitrin	67¾	67¼
US Inds	29⅝	29¼
US West Comm	53¾	53⅞
US West Media	36	35⅝
USAirways Group	72	72⅝
USX Marathon	37¾	37⅝
Unicom	34¾	34¼
Unilever NV	74¾	74¾
Union Camp	57⅝	57⅞
Union Carbide	50¾	49⅞
Union Pacific	56¾	55⅝
Unisys Corp	18⅞	18⅝
USF&G Corp	24¼	24⅝
United Tech	95⅝	95¼
Unocal Corp	40¼	40⅝
VF Corp	51¼	51¾
Wal-Mart Stores	51	50
Warner-Lambert	176¼	177⅝
Waste Mngmt	32⅝	31¼
Wells Fargo	352¾	341⅞
Weyerhaeuser	56⅝	56¾
Whirlpool	69	68¼
Whitman	20¼	19⅞
Winn Dixie	41⅞	42¾
Witco Corp	38⅝	39¼
Woolworth	25¼	25⅝
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	83¾	81¼
Xerox	113	112¾
Xilinx Inc	39¾	39¾

NEWS

Ulster choses hope over hate

■ Tony Blair declared last night that "courage has triumphed" as two governments and eight political parties signed up to a new future for Northern Ireland. He hailed a peace settlement that would give everyone the chance to live in peace and raise their children free from the shadow of fear ..... **Pages 1, 4, 5**

Rollercoaster ride to peace

■ It was a rollercoaster four days. A negotiating session involving Ulster's political leaders with Tony Blair, Bertie Ahern and George Mitchell that began at 8am on Thursday and finally reached its destination after 33 hours. As the participants emerged bleary-eyed to face the cameras, emotions ranged from delight, apprehension and relief ..... **Page 4**

Scottish blockbuster

The life of a Scottish adventurer who founded a disastrous settlement in Panama may be turned into a blockbuster..... **Page 7**

Bedtime prayers

Mothers should kneel and pray with their children, says Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster **Page 9**

Teachers' anger

The leader of Britain's largest teaching union appealed to his members to be patient with the Government after calls for industrial action..... **Page 9**

Goodward chic

Restored Regency interiors rivalling those at Windsor go on show at Goodward House..... **Page 11**

Duma's defiance

Russia's Duma made a show of defiance by rejecting President Yeltsin's nominee for Prime Minister, but by a far smaller margin than expected..... **Page 14**

Grizzly enemies

An insurrection, mounted by cattle ranchers, farmers and mothers, is threatening to derail a plan to bring back grizzly bears.. **Page 16**

Nanny check

The Government is to establish compulsory regulation of nanny agencies in an effort to stamp out operators who fail to carry out proper checks..... **Page 18**

Jesus's blood

A scientist in Turin claimed to have identified Jesus Christ's blood group as "AB"..... **Page 14**

New Iraq alert

The United Nations has given a warning that Iraq may be continuing to hide the scope of its biological warfare programme ...**Page 15**

Floating homes

The biggest floating community on the Thames since prison hulks is being planned as a home for some of the 4,000 building the Millennium Dome..... **Page 18**

Four die in worst floods for 50 years

■ Four people were feared drowned as the worst floods for more than 50 years hit the Midlands and parts of East Anglia. The Bank Holiday was washed out by rain and snowfalls of up to three inches. More than 30 communities were put on flood warning as rivers threatened to burst their banks . **Pages 1, 2, 3**

AHN YOUNG-JOON / AP



On the advice of singing teachers South Korean housewives practise with plastic buckets over their heads at a tone-deaf clinic in a Seoul store

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Dr Andrew Purkis, who runs the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, says it must be "a worthwhile, splendid part of our culture"..... **Page 21**

Skate's off: The common skate, one of the world's most graceful swimmers, is extinct in the North Sea..... **Page 16**

Winners: Competition between new museums is forcing up prices for soccer memorabilia ..... **Page 19**

Sea change: The score for the film *Titanic*, has broken into the top 100 most popular classics in Britain..... **Page 20**

OPINION

An Easter peace: Future Easters may be celebrated in all the Province's churches with signs of peace across old barriers, bells which no longer toll mournfully and hearts that can sing joyfully **Page 23**

Standards of truth: Last February's deal has in no way diminished the determination of scientific experts not to be fobbed off with Iraqi evasions..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Interest rates; television; malaria; Noël Coward's songs; Cinderella's slipper .. **Page 23**

COLUMNS

John Major: A Labour Prime Minister and his Irish counterpart have orchestrated the agreement. I don't care about political labels. I just care that they have done it **Page 22**

Simon Jenkins: What is remarkable is that most children, whose development demands an extended society, contrive to survive nuclear families at all..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Bill Reid, sculptor; **James McIntosh Patrick**, painter; **Morris Cox**, writer and printer..... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Lonrho: A £130 million loss is threatened from its exposure to an exploration company facing delisting from the US Stock Exchange ..... **Page 27**

Genesis: Peter Gabriel, the pop singer who co-founded the group, is suing his accountants over tax..... **Page 27**

Japan: The central bank, shaken by corruption allegations, disciplined 98 officials in an attempt to restore its battered authority ..... **Page 27**

WEEKEND MONEY

Gas; carpetbaggers; flood insurance; tax forms..... **49-60**

SPORT

Football: Liverpool, who had Michael Owen sent off, drew 1-1 with Manchester United in the Premiership ..... **Page 31**

Rugby league: John Monie, the Wigan Warriors coach, said his side still had plenty of room for improvement, despite their emphatic 38-18 win over St Helens..... **Page 32**

Rugby union: Saracens kept their ambitions of winning the Allied Dunbar Premiership title alive with a superb victory at Bath ..... **Page 40**

SECTIONS

the times

Mick Hucknall: In the party mood ..... **Page 18**
War and peace: Murderous rift at the heart of Buddhism..... **Page 26**
Special: 36 pages on fashion for men ... **Pages 39-75**
Rebellion: The American schoolboys who fought for Castro ..... **Page 86**

metro

Tori Amos: The case for the defence ..... **Page 6**
Books: Talking to Douglas Coupland..... **Page 14**
Homecoming: Illustrator Brian Cronin ..... **Page 24**
Listings: Full guide to films, music,theatre, clubs and exhibitions for your area ..... **Pages 26-43**

WEEKEND

Shroud: Miracle or false impression?..... **Pages 1, 2**
National Trust: Ruthless marketing is killing our gardens..... **Page 3**
Common scents: What your smell says..... **Page 8**
Property: Inside George Melly's hideaway .. **Page 13**
Travel: Florida; Norway; Finland; California .. **23-34**

Vision

Full seven-day guide to radio and television

Our eggcellent advice on Easter for funky kids

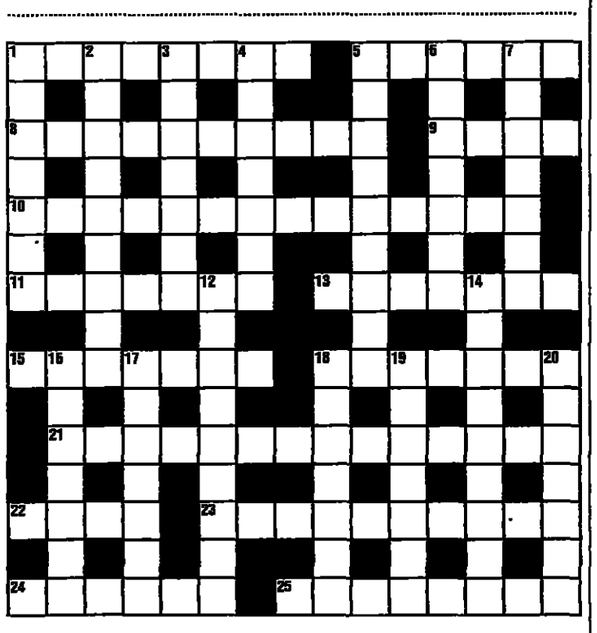
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,763

A £30 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

.....



ACROSS

1 In cattle, find English favouring this breed? (8).
5 Snigger from thief (6).
8 Having broken heart, peaceful type was idling (6,4).
9 Genuine-sounding folk music (4).
10 Hold flexible opinions — as banditti do? (4,2,4,4).
11 They may illuminate pit orchestra's section (7).
13 Taking over from Tom, the sailor (7).
15 Polished poem turned into opera (7).
18 Litter — offensive plague (7).
21 Keenness of operators to make theatre cleaner (8,6).
22 Sacred river comes from mountain height (4).
23 American form of transport extended by city in Alabama (10).
24 Be visibly embarrassed giving *court order to diplomat* (6).
25 In an ugly spill, being clumsy (8).

DOWN

1 Bowler, say, beginning to control the wayward cutter (7).
2 Much loved commander captured, got back (9).
3 Type of bond for builder injuring himself (7).
4 In working hours, doctor supplies lozenge (7).
5 Extreme position of a prime minister — Paderewski, for example (5,4).
6 Don't allow to finish dog-end (7).
7 Nature writer upsets *me* — fellow's not quiet (7).
12 Remove bird tucking into flower (9).
14 Popular translation putting things back to front (9).
16 *Manlike? Not according to Donne* (7).
17 Within this range, we hear (7).
18 Aircraft that's blown up (7).
19 Go down to see graduate's record of academic achievement (7).
20 Extremely lucky as fur-trapper — it's a chancy business (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20757

S	T	A	R	T	U	P	F	I	G	U	R	E	S	
I		N		O		A		O		E		E		E
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	L	Y	O	X	B	O	W	
N		O		P		L		E		R		E		
A	B	U	S	E		I	R	R	E	G	U	L	A	R
L		N		D		A		1		A				
		C	R	O	S	S	H	A	T	C	H	I	N	G
O		E		S		W				S		E		
F	O	R	T	U	N	E	T	E	L	L	E	R		
F		N				S		A		A		A		
B	L	U	E	P	R	I	N	T		U	P	E	N	D
R		N		A		N		R		N		L		A
E	Y	I	N	G		F	O	U	N	D	L	I	N	G
A		T		E		E		C		R		T		E
K	N	E	A	D	E	R		K	E	Y	L	E	S	S

Solution to Puzzle No 20762

S	E	P	I	A		C	H	A	I	N	M	A	I	L
T		I		P		A		C		E		I		A
O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	E		A	I	R	E	D
P		E		O		I		T		A		P		E
P	U	T	O	N	E	S	F	O	O	T	D	O	W	N
R		T		E		N		H		R				
E	J	E	C	T	O	R		E	P	I	S	T	L	E
S				H				N				V		
S	H	A	K	E	U	P		F	I	G	T	R	E	E
		N		S		O		L		E		R		
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	M	A	S	D	A	I	S	Y
E		H		U		E		N		E		S		B
T	R	U	E	R		M	A	N	I	F	E	S	T	O
I		S		U		I		E		U		D		
C	L	A	S	S	I	C	A	L		R	E	E	D	Y

Last week's winners: *M Trotter, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees; S Beresford, Tamworth, Staffs; I McBain, Poole, Dorset; A C Kent, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset; K B Saundery, Blackheath, London.*

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1998. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Knowsley Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Saturday, April 11, 1998. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax — The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	N. Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 335	London	416 342
Midlands	416 336		
East Anglia	416 337	National Satellite Weather	
N.West	416 338	picture	416 397
N. East	416 339		
Scotland	416 340		
Metfax Marine inshore leisure forecast			416 598

World City Weather — The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast
by Phone dial 0336 411216
by Fax (Index page) 0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.14 am	7.50 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
6.24 am	7.24 pm

Full moon today

London 7.50 pm to 6.12 am
Bristol 8.00 pm to 6.22 am
Edinburgh 8.11 pm to 6.16 am
Manchester 8.02 pm to 6.17 am
Penzance 8.10 pm to 6.36 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.12 am	7.52 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
6.46 am	8.27 pm

Last quarter April 19

London 7.52 pm to 6.10 am
Bristol 8.02 pm to 6.20 am
Edinburgh 8.13 pm to 6.13 am
Manchester 8.04 pm to 6.15 am
Penzance 8.11 pm to 6.34 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	1.06	4.0	1.16	4.0
Avonmouth	7.00	12.7	7.19	12.8
Belfast	10.50	3.4	11.13	3.2
Cardiff	6.46	11.8	7.05	11.9
Devonport	5.27	5.3	5.45	5.3
Dover	10.56	6.3	11.11	6.5
Dublin	11.30	3.9	11.38	3.8
Falmouth	4.58	5.1	5.16	5.1
Greenock	0.27	3.0	12.21	3.2
Harwich	11.47	3.9	11.59	3.8
Holyhead	10.10	5.4	10.27	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	6.10	8.2	6.18	8.5
Ilfracombe	5.45	8.8	6.03	8.8
King's Lynn	6.17	6.2	6.22	6.4
Leith	2.24	5.2	2.45	5.3
Liverpool	11.05	9.1	11.21	9.1
London Bridge	1.38	7.0	1.58	7.1
Lowestoft	9.36	2.3	9.28	2.4
Margate	.	.	12.08	4.5
Milford Haven	6.00	6.6	6.17	6.6
Newquay	4.52	6.6	5.08	6.7
Oban	5.24	3.7	5.53	3.8
Penzance	4.24	5.3	4.40	5.3
Portland	6.27	1.7	6.53	1.8
Portsmouth	11.03	4.3	11.24	4.5
Shoreham	11.09	5.9	11.24	6.1
Southampton	10.36	4.3	10.53	4.4
Swansea	5.06	9.3	5.22	9.3
Tees	3.25	5.1	3.36	5.3
Walton-On-Naze	11.40	4.1	11.52	4.1

All times BST Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Dunkeswell, Devon, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Cottesmore, Rutland, 1.49in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 11.1hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Scotland will have another very cold and windy day with sunshine and snow showers. Northern Ireland will be bright with some sunshine, but there will be a cold wind and scattered wintry showers. Most of England and Wales will be cloudy and cold with showery bursts of rain and hill snow. Brighter weather in the northern and western fringes will edge southeast.

Tonight, rain and sleet in the south will clear to leave most of the country with clear skies. It will be very cold with a widespread frost. The north and west of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have further wintry showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England:** any early fog will clear with morning sunny spells but rain later. A moderate north wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Central N, NE England:** rain and sleet with snow on hills but it will become brighter from the west. A brisk north wind. Max 8C (48F).

☐ **Channel Isles:** cold and cloudy with heavy showers, some of them thundery. A brisk northwest wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** early rain and hill snow clearing to sunny spells and isolated wintry showers. A cold north wind. Max 8C (46F).

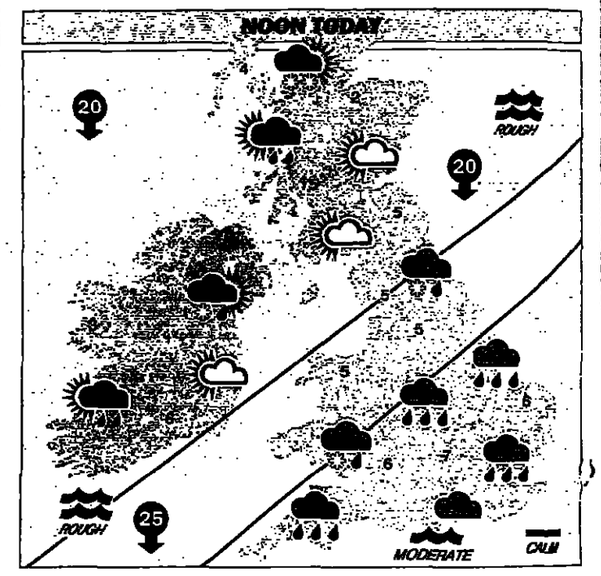
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** cold with hail and snow showers mixed with sunny spells. A fresh north wind. Max 8C (48F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** very cold with sunny spells and scattered hail and snow showers. A strong north wind. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** bright or sunny periods, scattered wintry showers, most frequent in north and east. Wind northerly fresh or strong, but gale force at times on exposed coasts. Feeling cold. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** remaining cold with sunny spells and scattered wintry showers. Most of the showers will be in the north with further falls of snow over the Scottish hills. Night frosts.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

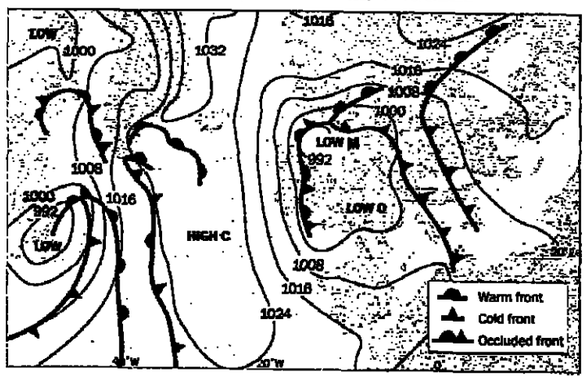
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	11.0	0.05	6	43	sn
Anglesey	4.3	0.35	7	45	sh
Aspatria	1.9	0.02	6	43	h
Aviemore	4.1	0.17	4	39	sn
Belfast	10.4	0.01	9	48	sn
Birmingham	.	0.93	4	39	sn
Bognor R	1.7	0.28	9	48	c
Bournem'th	0.2	0.23	7	45	r
Bristol	.	0.01	5	41	r
Buxton	.	0.05	3	37	sl
Cardiff	X	0.01	8	43	r
Clacton	X				
Cleethorpes	.	0.09	7	45	sh
Colwyn Bay	.	0.01	7	45	c
Cromer	3.5	0.79	9	48	f
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	5.2	0.26	11	52	s
Edinburgh	4.9	0.04	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	5.2	0.04	5	41	sn
Exmouth	.	0.21	5	41	c
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	1.0	0.03	6	43	sh
Folkestone	5.3	0.07	10	50	b
Glasgow	8.2	0.05	8	46	sn
Guernsey	.	0.12	8	46	sh
Hastings	5.8	0.17	10	50	s
Hayling I.	2.4	0.34	9	48	r
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	3.7	0.37	11	52	s
Hunstanton	0.5	0.76	9	48	sh
Isle of Man	3.4	0.37	7	45	sh
Isle of Wight	2.4	0.50	8	46	r
Jersey	4.0	0.15	9	48	sh
Kinloss	7.8	0.02	7	45	sn
Leeds	.	0.11	6	43	r
Lerwick	7.7	0.04	5	41	sn
Leuchars	8.1	0.01	8	46	h
Littlehmptn	1.4	0.26	9	48	sh
London	0.9	0.24	11	52	t
Lowestoft	2.9	0.49	10	50	r
Manchester	.	0.01	6	43	r
Margate	6.2	0.01	12	54	b
Minehead	X				
Morecambe	1.4	0.01	7	45	du
Newcastle	0.6	0.08	6	43	r
Newquay	X				
Norwich	2.2	1.10	10	50	sh
Oxford	0.5	0.12	6	43	sl
Penzance	X	0.85	8	46	h
Poole	1.2	0.28	7	45	r
Prestatyn	X	0.01	7	45	c
Ross on Wye	X	0.32	5	41	sh
Salcombe	1.0	0.12	6	43	d
Saunin Snd	X				
Scarboro'	0.2	0.52	5	41	r
Shrewsbury	.	0.30	3	37	sn
Skegness	0.3	0.31	8	46	r
Southend	1.0	0.35	10	50	t
Southport	.	0.01	7	45	sh
Southsea	3.5	0.04	11	52	r
Stornoway	X				
Swanage	0.5	0.72	7	45	r
Teignmouth	0.3	0.39	8	43	sh
Tenby	2.2	0.05	7	45	c
Tiree	11.1	0.01	7	45	s
Torquay	.	0.09	8	46	c
Tynemouth	.		6	43	r
Weston s Mare	.	0.12	5	41	c
Weymouth	X				

ABROAD

Ajaccio	17	63	s	Cologne	13	55	c	Madrid	11	52	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	C'phagn	5	41	f	Majorca	19	66	s
Alex'dria	24	75	s	Corfu	22	72	f	Malaga	19	66	f
Algiers	20	68	f	Dublin	6	43	c	Malta	20	68	c
Amst'dm	11	52	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	c	Melb'rne	15	59	c
Athens	23	73	s	Faro	17	63	f	Mexico C	24	75	s
Bahrain	27	81	s	Florence	17	63	c	Miami	32	90	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Frankfurt	10	50	f	Milan	16	61	f
Barbados	X			Funchal	17	63	c	Montreal	8	46	s
Barcelona	18	64	f	Geneva	5	41	c	Moscow	5	41	c
Beijing	22	72	f	Gibraltar	16	61	c	Munich	12	54	c
Beirut	19	66	s	Helsinki	2	36	f	Nairobi	27	81	r
Belgrade	15	59	f	Hong K	28	82	f	Naples	16	61	c
Berlin	5	41	c	Innsbruck	13	55	f	N Delhi	29	84	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Istanbul	22	72	f	N York	9	48	r
Biarritz	11	52	f	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	15	59	s
Borde'x	8	46	x	Jo'burg	17	63	c	Oslo	1	34	sn
Brussels	11	52	f	L Palmas	21	70	c	Paris	10	50	c
Budapst	10	50	r	La Toquet	7	45	f	Perth	24	75	f
B Aires	20	68	f	Lisbon	14	57	c	Prague	12	54	f
Cairo	28	82	s	Locarno	8	46	c	Reykjavik	-1	30	s
Cape Tn	20	68	s	L Angels	16	61	s	Rhodes	22	72	s
Chicago	5	41	r	Luxembg	10	50	f	Rio de J	28	82	f
Ch'church	25	77	x	Luxor	35	95	s	Riyadh	29	84	f
Rome	16	61	f								
Salzburg	13	55	f								
S Fr'sco	13	55	s								
Santiago	15	59	f								
S Paulo	.	.	.								
Seoul	20	68	s								
Sing'por	33	91	f								
St'kholm	4	39	f								
Strasb'rg	14	57	f								
Sydney	21	70	c								
Tangier	17	63	f								
Tel Aviv	23	73	s								
Tenerife	20	68	c								
Tokyo	11	52	r								
Toronto	10	50	c								
Tunis	19	66	c								
Valencia	19	66	f								
Vanc'ver	9	48	s								
Venice	14	57	f								
Vienna	13	55	r								
Warsaw	6	43	c								
Wash'ton	11	52	c								
Wel'ngton	21	70	x								
Zurich	11	52	f								

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high C will move southwest and intensify; low M will drift northeast then west and fill; low O will move east with little change

RAC cover from just £39

- Membership covers you as the driver or passenger in any car, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Average call out time of just 40 minutes
- Our highly trained patrols repair 81% of breakdowns
- You can tailor your cover to suit your individual requirements
- It's easy to join: call now & pay by credit, debit or charge card, or by Direct Debit instalments

For instant cover
0800 029 029
Quoting TIM078



www.rac.co.uk

Phone lines open Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. Free atlas (RRP £9.99) offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, is not transferable and is only available to new Members. Cover costs from £39 if paying by continuous payment method.

هكذا من الأصل

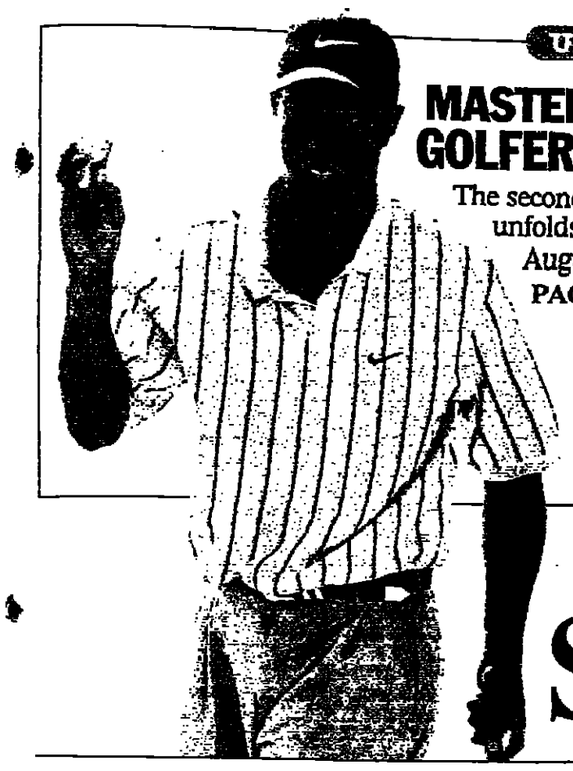
هذا من الأصل

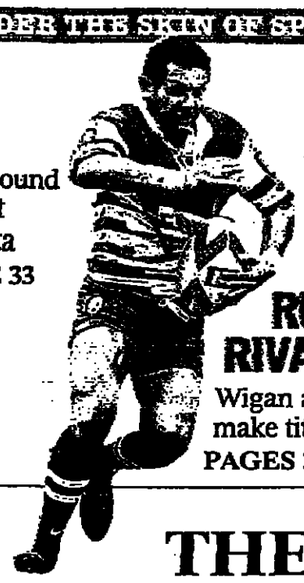
UNDER THE SIGN OF SPORT

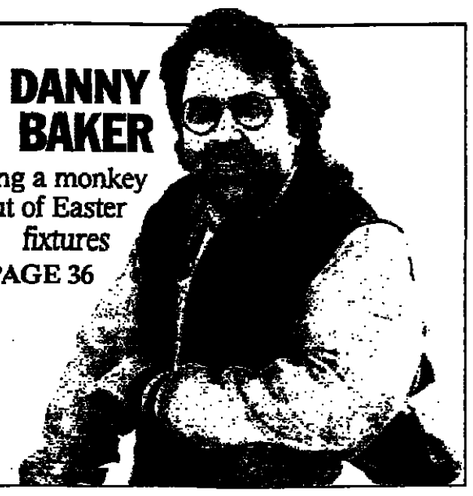
MASTER GOLFERS
The second round unfolds at Augusta
PAGE 33

RUGBY RIVALRIES
Wigan and Saracens make title points
PAGES 32, 40, 41

DANNY BAKER
Making a monkey out of Easter fixtures
PAGE 36







WEEKEND MONEY

CARPETBAGGERS NOT WELCOME
PAGE 50

HOW MUCH LOWER CAN JAPAN GO?
PAGE 55





THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT
14 PAGES

APRIL 11 1998

LIVERPOOL SHEFFIELD INDEPENDENT UNITED'S TITLE AMBITIONS

Red mark on Owen record





Owen turns away in celebration after putting Liverpool back in the match by scoring their equaliser against Manchester United yesterday. Photographs: Marc Aspland

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

BEFORE the game yesterday, Pelé had held court at Old Trafford, dispensing his unique brand of geniality and wisdom for the entranced ranks of the media. For a while it seemed as though his spirit had seeped into the players of Manchester United and Liverpool, as they gave us glimpses of the beautiful game. But, five minutes before half-time, it all went wrong.

In an incident that overshadowed yet another change of emphasis in the FA Carling Premiership title race, Michael Owen, the young Liverpool prodigy whom Pelé had *praised earlier in the day*, was sent off for an horrific, two-footed lunge at the ankle of Ronnie Johnsen, the United defender. It was a tackle that seemed reminiscent of the assault by Paul Bosvelt, the Feyenoord defender, on Dennis Irwin in the European Cup Champions' League earlier this season.

The result swung the momentum in the race for the championship back slightly towards Arsenal, who now have four games in hand over United and are seven points behind. They meet Newcastle United at Highbury today in a dress rehearsal for the FA Cup Final. For Liverpool, the result, bravely achieved with ten men though it was, effectively ended their own fading title hopes.

United had taken the lead in the twelfth minute when Johnsen headed home Beckham's corner, but Owen equalised nine minutes before half-time with a wonderfully opportunistic goal that made his dismissal all the more regrettable. *United laid siege* to the Liverpool goal in the second half, but could not make the breakthrough. An apparent recurrence of Giggs's hamstring injury and a likely injury absence for Johnsen will also bring encouragement for Arsenal.

Owen's tackle, though, dominated the post-match discussions. While the crowd were still gasping at the challenge and screaming their outrage, Johnsen writhed on the floor in agony and Graham Poll, the referee, reached into his pocket and pulled out the red card. He had no alternative because Owen had already been booked for a scything tackle that had swept Schmeichel off *his* feet.

His sending-off and the one-match ban that it will bring is bound to take some of the momentum out of his late run for a place in the England squad. He was sent off for the England Under-18s against Yugoslavia earlier this season, but seemed to have conquered any problems in temperament. Now he will have to go back to the drawing board.

"You would have to say that the balance of power is in Arsenal's hands now," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "That was definitely two points dropped for us. Johnsen will be out for two or three weeks, but he is lucky that he was not more seriously hurt."

After Pelé had been roundly applauded as he took his seat in the directors' box, and Ince had been roundly booed as he walked out on his old stomping ground, the game had begun in a flurry of action. Only 70 seconds had elapsed when Giggs charged down a clumsy attempted clearance from Matteo and advanced on Friedel. The Liverpool goalkeeper stood up well and blocked *his shot and Babb slid* across to kick Scholes's follow-up off the line.

Ince shot high and wide with his left foot a few seconds later and Owen had the first of his several clashes with Schmeichel when he just failed to beat him to a shot from McManaman that had spilt from the goalkeeper's hands. It was breathless stuff *and the pace hardly seemed to* relent throughout the half.

United took the lead when Johnsen rose, unattended by either Harkness or Matteo, to head Beckham's corner high into the Liverpool net at the back post. Two minutes later, the away side nearly equalised when McManaman lifted the ball over Schmeichel's dive, but Owen's shot was blocked *at the last by Gary Neville.*

Cole headed just wide from a cross by Giggs in the eighteenth minute but, four minutes later, Schmeichel had to fling himself to his right to touch Ince's low deflected shot just round the post. If anything, the tempo of the game was increasing. The tackles flew in and Ince and Butt were particularly unforgiving. *Amid it all, Owen seemed to* be losing his cool.

He was booked for a wild lunge at Schmeichel in the *32nd minute but, only seconds* after McManaman had missed a gilt-edged chance in the 36th minute, Owen redeemed himself when he stole in between the hesitating Pallister and an uncertain Schmeichel to chip the ball *delicately over the goalkeeper* and into the empty net.

Five minutes before half-time, though, Owen was sent off and the second half was a pallid imitation of the first. Liverpool's ten men seemed to relish the challenge and fashioned the best chance after the break when a sublime flick from Murphy in the sixtieth minute freed Leonhardsen. His low shot forced a fine, save from Schmeichel.

For the remainder of the match, United poured on the pressure but, with Matteo and *Ince inspired, they rarely* looked like breaking the deadlock, except when Jones had to clear Cole's late header off the line. Now, Alex Ferguson and his team will have to sit and watch as Arsenal take the stage again.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, R Johnsen (sub: D May, 43min), G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham, N Butt, P Neville (sub: E Sheringham, 88), R Giggs (sub: B Thornley, 39) — A Cole, P Scholes
LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): B Friedel — R Jones, D Matteo, P Babb, S Harkness — S McManaman, P Ince, J Redknapp, O Leonhardsen — D Murphy (sub: P Berger, 73), M Owen
Referee: G Poll.

Football Saturday, p34-38



Owen holds his head after being shown the red card

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
MAN UTD	34	20	7	7	64	25	67
ARSENAL	30	17	9	4	49	26	60

REMAINING FIXTURES

April 18	v Newcastle (H)	Today	v Newcastle (H)
April 27	v Crystal Palace (A)	April 13	v Blackburn (A)
May 4	v Leeds (H)	April 18	v Wimbledon (H)
May 10	v Barnsley (A)	April 25	v Barnsley (A)
		April 29	v Derby (H)
		May 3	v Everton (H)
		May 6	v Liverpool (A)
		May 10	v Aston Villa (A)

Wenger hungry for catch phrase

It was only on the fourth morning that Arsène Wenger realised there was something peculiar going on, for, yet again, his girlfriend was eating her breakfast without him. "Where is my breakfast, my little *choux?*" he asked gently, as he had asked three times before.

"Ah-ha, Arsène," she replied, waving a buttery knife. "You do not recognise my little scheme? Lucky for you, I think, that I myself am sharp like the whip." He removed his glasses and pinched the bridge of his nose. Four days in a row without breakfast! He was getting hungry.

He reached for an attrac-

LYNNE TRUSS

tively-dusted *pain chocolat*. "Not yet, Arsène," she warned. "But think. While I am, admittedly, enjoying this excellent *brioche* and *confiture*, I am ensuring you have four lovely breakfasts in hand!"

He was fed-up with hearing this. There had been far too much "in hand" stuff going on lately. It was not only unfair, but also very confusing to a non-English speaker whose first lesson in English idiom had been the one about the bird in hand being worth two in the bush.

"So, Monsieur Wenger, seven points behind Manchester United but four matches in hand," the reporters would say to him, and he would reply carefully: "Yes, it is the equivalent, I think, of eight matches in the shrubs, but personally I would prefer to have the points, how you say, in the bag." And when they looked confused, he would say: "You don't have a spare bit of breakfast with you, I suppose? *I'm starving.*"

It was odd and unfair, the way the Premiership had turned out this season. He was beginning to feel quite touchy about it. Every day, he woke up with the same set of sums drumming through his head: two threes are six; three threes are nine; four threes are 12; five threes are 15. "Catch you later" was an innocent, cordial phrase now banned outright at Highbury.

Continued on page 32

RUGBY LEAGUE: WARRIORS FAIL TO SATISFY COACH DESPITE DISMISSING RIVALS IN AWESOME DISPLAY

Sharks go top after gamble pays off

MARK JOHNSON scored a try two minutes from time as Hull Sharks's remarkable return to the top flight continued at a wet and windy Boulevard with a 6-4 defeat of London Broncos, who have made a miserable start.

The Broncos lost 32-6 in their opening league game at home to Halifax last week, which was followed by the return of Tony Currie, the coach, to Australia because of a family illness.

At least the Broncos were more resilient than last Sunday, restricting Hull to a 2-0 half-time lead, despite playing into a stiff wind. Then they took the lead on 59 minutes when Damien Chapman burst through and exchanged passes with Nick Mardon before going over. However, the scrum half missed the conversion attempt from a comfortable position.

Hull turned down two chances to kick at goal from close range in the dying minutes as they attempted to claim the victory rather than settle for a draw. Then they ran the ball on the last tackle and Hitro Okesene, Alan Hunte and Graeme Hallas — who had kicked his side into the lead with a first-half penalty — combined to set up Johnson.

The South African wing dived over in the corner and, despite Hallas missing his attempt at adding the two extra points, the Sharks had sealed a famous victory.

Hull sit proudly alongside Wigan at the top, but Peter Walsh, the coach, and Hunte, the captain, both admitted that they must improve quickly if they want their splendid start to continue.

Walsh said: "We were devoid of ideas and London were stiff opposition. They punished us for our mistakes and we were lucky to come away with a win. If we keep winning the close ones, we'll have a half-decent season."

Hunte, whose decision it was to run two penalties close to the London line in the build-up to Johnson's try, added: "We had a touch of the collywobbles for the first 78 minutes. We tried to push it too much and if we keep going like that, we'll get caught out."

Tony Rea, the London chief executive, praised his team's defensive work. "We conceded 70 points in our previous two games, so that was a real big positive — we played with a lot of character," he said.

"But we also played some dumb stuff. We would exert pressure and make a half-break, but then force a pass when we should have just played the next tackle. A win would fix everything."

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT



Smith, the Wigan half back, eludes two would-be St Helens tacklers to set up a break in his side's victory at Knowsley Road yesterday

St Helens 18
Wigan Warriors 38

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Monie demands ruthless attitude

WIGAN have work to do in toughening up mentally and are far from the finished article, according to John Monie, their coach. Try telling that, though, to Shaun McRae, his fellow Australian and opposite number at St Helens.

McRae could not hide his admiration for the way in which the opposition dismantled his generally woebegone side in the JJB Super League at Knowsley Road yesterday.

"We had an initial go and another shot at the start of the second half, but they were far too good," McRae said, shaking his head. "They were considerably better, but where we deserve some credit was in scoring 18 points. Their defence is absolutely fantastic, almost impregnable. There just isn't a weakness."

Monie was less lavish in his praise and furious over the apology of a tackle by O'Connor that enabled Newlove to score a consolation third try before Johnson claimed a sixth for Wigan. "Things like that may cost someone a spot at Wembley," Monie said. His demands on his players are almost as legendary as the prizes to his name.

Aside from the gaffes and blunders that littered St Helens's performance was the realisation that they do not possess the calibre of player to match Wigan in this sort of mood. Sullivan and Newlove, individuals of proven ability, were strangely quiet and though Joynt, Sculthorpe and Goldspink never gave up in the pack, solid contributions were no match for genuine inspiration.

All of Wigan's tries were scored by their backs, including a couple of sublime efforts by Robinson on one wing and Gilmour, making his second full appearance, on the other, which, in the space of three minutes before half-time, transformed a tight contest into a runaway affair.

Gilmour, 20, a product of the Wigan academy but who, like Robinson, hails from Leeds, is one of those adaptable players that Monie especially likes, as happy tackling and taking the ball forward in the second row as causing damage out in the three-quarters. Long, Joynt and Martyn all had stabs at stopping the rangy youngster, but Gilmour finished powerfully and with a smile from ear to ear.

It would be wrong to think that there is no pleasing Monie, because any win at St Helens is something to be savoured, but he knows that his side has so much more to offer. "I don't think we're playing well enough at the moment to get into a really tough second-half game," he said. "We're going to have to work harder on mental toughness, but we're getting better."



Monie: hard taskmaster

It has not been the best of weeks for St Helens, with a strike threat by players over bonus cuts and injuries that forced McRae into a couple of gambles. Martyn was hobbling like an injured bird after 20 minutes and, although he scored a good try after linking with Goulding, he never seemed comfortable. Opposite the livewire Paul and Smith for Wigan at half back, the pair were simply no match.

When Haigh cut back inside to beat Smith after 85sec, St Helens were as surprised as anyone. "At times like that, you wish the full-time hooter would go then," McRae said. It was the only attack of substance that the home side managed throughout the first half, in which they were fortunate not to suffer to a greater extent, given the dithering of Atcheson at full back.

Radlinski, bursting into the line, took a wonderful pass by Farrell on the left to split Haigh and Smith for Wigan's first try, in the 24th minute. Farrell then replied to an earlier Goulding penalty, but 6-6 quickly became 18-6 to Wigan, courtesy of Gilmour and, beforehand, Robinson, who evaded two tackles in the middle of the pitch, drifted to the outside and outsprinted Haigh and Goulding in a 60-metre dash.

Martyn's try early in the second half from Goulding's grubber-kick was a carbon copy of the one that helped St Helens to beat Bradford Bulls in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final last year, now a distant memory. As their handling errors mounted and discipline worsened, Connolly, Smith and Johnson scored further tries and Farrell added two more penalties to add to his four conversions.

After two defeats already by Wigan this season, St Helens's only solace is that they do not face them again until July. By then, though, Monie might have Wigan up to scratch.

SCORERS: St Helens: Tries: Haigh, Martyn, Newlove. Goals: Goulding (3). Wigan Warriors: Tries: Radlinski, Robinson, Gilmour, Connolly, Smith, Johnson. Goals: Farrell (7).

ST HELENS: P Atcheson; C Smith, A Haigh, P Newlove, A Sullivan; T Martyn, R Goulding, B Goldspink, J Hamilton, J O'Neill, C Joynt, P Sculthorpe, K Hammond. Substitutes: S Long, I Pickavance, D Smith, P Anderson.

WIGAN WARRIORS: K Radlinski; L Gilmour, G Connolly, D Moore, J Robinson; H Paul, A Smith, A Mestrov, R McCormack, T O'Connor, D Betts, M Cassidy, A Farrell. Substitutes: N Cowie, J Clarke, S Holgate, P Johnson.

Referee: R Smith (Castleford).

Prospects bleak for Warrington

Warrington Wolves 4
Salford Reds 37

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WARRINGTON Wolves released 22 players during the off-season, enabling their wage bill to be cut by £400,000 and Darryl van de Velde, their coach, to recruit ten new players to help redress the balance. It is still early days this season, but, judging from this inept performance, there are few signs that the heavy turnover will coincide with a significant improvement in their fortunes.

After narrowly avoiding relegation last year, they have failed clearly to eradicate last season's problems and may well turn out to be grateful that there will be no relegation from the Super League at the end of this campaign.

Salford's ageing set of forwards has been considered a possible Achilles' heel as the Reds try to improve on their sixth place of last season, but with David Hulme providing an inspirational lead in his first match as captain, in the absence of Andy Platt, Salford dominated the forward contest and their backs capitalised on that supremacy.

Ironically, it was Martin Crompton, a former Warrington player, who was the chief instigator of their demise. He set up three of Salford's opening four tries, kicked four conversions and added a dropped goal, but took no delight in saying afterwards: "I spent seven seasons at Warrington, but never in a side as poor as this one. It is sad the way their form has dipped."

Warrington contributed to their own downfall, with errors from Jason Roach and Toa Kohe-Love gifting Darren Rogers two early tries.

Salford led 22-4 at the interval, with Crompton's passes enabling Paul Forber and Scott Naylor to use their strength to power over. Warrington's token reply was a try for Kohe-Love from a kick by Lee Briers.

Salford were always in control and added further tries in the second half from David Bradbury, Gary Broadbent and Hulme, who caught the Warrington defence unawares as he chased Crompton's delicate kick.

To add to Warrington's problems, Adam Fogerty was placed on report for an incident involving Hulme.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Try: Kohe-Love. Salford Reds: Tries: Rogers (2), Forber, Naylor, Bradbury, Hulme, Broadbent. Goals: Crompton (4). Dropped goal: Crompton.

WARRINGTON WOLVES: L Penny; J Roach, T Kohe-Love, V Fawcett, M Forster; A Doyle, A Briers, A Fogerty, D Farrar, D Nulley, S McCurrie, B Tuuta, M Wainwright. Substitutes: G Chambers, C Causey, C Rudd, I Knott.

SALFORD REDS: G Broadbent, P Hassan, S Naylor, N McAvoy, D Rogers, J White, M Crompton, L Sawelo, P Edwards, E Faimalo, D Bradbury, J Faimalo, D Hulme. Substitutes: P Forber, S Martin, M Lee, P Southern.

Referee: R Connolly (Wigan)

Wenger catching up on the language fast

Continued from page 31

Someone anonymously sent him a video of the old movie *Catch Us If You Can*: he threw it in the bin. "It's not my fault, none of this is my fault." Meanwhile, to his dismay, he kept finding four full glasses of wine waiting for him at the bar in the evening. "We've had ours," his friends would say, cheerfully, as they put on their coats. "Hope you enjoy yours as much as we did!"

And now it was Easter. Just eight matches left (eight threes are 24). "Everything to play for," he practised saying in front of the mirror. "The psychological advantage is ours.

"Softly, softly, catchee monkey. A stern chase is a long chase. It is idle to swallow the cow and choke on the tail." Clearly, he'd been consulting his Eric Cantona Bumper Book of Obscure Proverbs for Foreign Sportsmen again. But it gave him no comfort to sound wise and patient at this time. Six threes were 18; nine threes were 27; 38 threes were 114.

And meanwhile he couldn't even achieve parity of breakfast and was obliged to eat out.

"Ketchup with that?"

"I beg your pardon?"

Wenger broke from his reverie and looked up at the waiter, who was standing beside him.

"Er, ketchup?"

It was the wrong thing to say.

"I am catching up as fast as I can," Wenger said quietly, and left.

"Oh, well," the waiter said, collecting the plate and addressing the remaining customers. "We'll keep it warm for him. I'm sure he won't mind too much if he has it another time."

SNOOKER: WORLD CHAMPION REACHES SEMI-FINALS OF BRITISH OPEN

Doherty runs into form at right time

BY PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY begins the defence of his Embassy world championship title in Sheffield next week quietly confident of another extended run at the game's blue riband event. There is some justification for such a mood of optimism. The Irishman, who has gradually become stronger as the campaign has progressed, secured a place in the semi-finals of the British Open at Plymouth yesterday by beating Neal Foulds 5-1.

It improved his frames won-lost record at the event to 20-2. Doherty won the low-key Malta Grand Prix five months ago, but his best series of results have come since the turn of the year.

He has been runner-up in the Irish Masters and a semi-finalist at the Thailand Masters and Benson and Hedges Masters, losing on both occasions to Stephen Hendry after a deciding-frame finish, and the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge.

Doherty, who will now play either Hendry or John Parrott, said: "I played pretty solidly, though I know it's going to get harder from now on. Even though I haven't won a major title, this has probably been one of my most consistent seasons ever. I realise the players who will be left are going to be tough to beat but, for a change, so am I."

A well-crafted break of 74 got Doherty off on the right foot and Foulds, appearing in his first quarter-final since the International Open of February 1994, never seriously threatened his dominance.

Efficient rather than spectacular, Doherty retained his early fluency with additional contributions of 51, 50, 57 and, to close a one-sided encounter, 77.

John Higgins is also enjoying a consistent season and he reached yet another semi-final by overcoming the stubborn challenge of Gary Ponting, the world No 85.

Although not at his best, the Scot recovered from a 4-3 deficit to edge through 5-4. A break of 53 in the first frame enabled Ponting, who was making his debut in the last eight of a ranking event, to settle early nerves. When he cleared from the last red to brown to lead 3-1, an upset began to look to be a distinct possibility.

"It was just as well I didn't bump into anyone at the interval," Higgins said. "I was really fuming." Higgins, who lost 9-4 to Ponting in the second round of the United Kingdom championship in November, added: "I couldn't get what happened in Preston off my mind."

Higgins, the winner of the German Open and Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge this season, is nothing if not determined and rallied to 3-3 with breaks of 40 and 48 — but Ponting stood firm.

When Higgins had the misfortune to pot two reds in splitting the pack off the blue, Ponting regained the lead at 4-3 with a break of 65. Once more, the world No 2 was under pressure. Tactically superior in the eighth frame, Higgins forced a decider, which he won with a break of 101 that was launched by a fluke.

"It was a lucky break, but I still had to pot the rest of the balls," Higgins said. His next opponent will be either Ronnie O'Sullivan or Mark Williams, the title-holder.

"THE GAME THAT'S SET TO REVOLUTIONIZE GOLF ON THE PC IS FINALLY HERE"
PC ZONE 90%
"The Golf Pro is about as close to real as any golf sim is ever going to get"
PC HOME 89%
"Jaw-droppingly gorgeous"
PC FORMAT 88%
"Technically the best Golf Game on the Market"
PC FORCE 85%
"Now this really is revolutionary"
PC GAMING WORLD 5/5
"Golfers will love it"
THE EVENING STANDARD
THE Golf PRO
Featuring Gary Player
PC CD ROM WINDOWS 95
Available now from Dixons, Currys, PC World, Virgin Games, Toys R Us and all other quality software stores.
Online Ordering: http://www.microdrive.com
Call for a free demo CD on: 0800 7830156
empire

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka crumble for third one-day defeat

■ **CRICKET:** Pakistan scored an easy 110-run victory over Sri Lanka in a one-day match in Paarl to move closer to a place in the final of the triangular tournament, against South Africa, the host nation. Sri Lanka, the World Cup-holders, were dismissed for only 139 from 34.2 overs for their third successive defeat in the competition. They must now win their three remaining matches to have any chance of reaching the final. Pakistan and South Africa each have two wins.

Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis set Pakistan on course for victory, reducing Sri Lanka to 54 for four by the twelfth over. Aravinda de Silva top-scored with 31, but was bowled by Abdul Razzaq.

Earlier, Pakistan had made 250, blazing their way to 92 in their first 15 overs. Muttiah Muralitharan, the off spinner, was largely responsible for a mid-innings collapse in which four wickets fell in seven overs, but Ijaz Ahmed, playing in his 200th one-day international, scored a stylish 65 and received substantial support from the lower-order batsmen. Rashid Latif made 36, Wasim Akram 22 and Razzaq 22.

Raymond stages revival

■ **TENNIS:** Lisa Raymond battled back from 5-0 deficit in the first set to defeat Monica Seles, the No 3 seed, 7-6, 6-4 in the third round of the Bausch and Lomb championships at Amelia Island, Florida. Raymond, who won NCAA championships in 1992 and 1993 for the nearby University of Florida, felt that she benefited from the crowd's support. "The crowd really helped, they were awesome, especially when I was down 5-0 in the first set," she said.

Seles was the first player among the top eight seeds to be eliminated. Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, the No 2 seed, beat Magui Serna, of Spain, 6-3, 6-3 and Iva Majoli, of Croatia, the No 5 seed, had an easy 6-4, 6-1 victory over Jennifer Capriati.

Tate dies in road crash

■ **BOXING:** John Tate, pictured right, the former World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, was killed instantly when his pickup truck crashed into a pole in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was 43. The accident occurred less than a mile from the old Ivy Glenn training camp that Tate used after he won the title with a points decision over Gerrie Coetzee, of South Africa, in Pretoria on October 20, 1979.



No fun for Fogarty

■ **MOTOR CYCLING:** Carl Fogarty, of Great Britain, the joint leader in the world superbike championship, competes in the third round at Donington Park this weekend. He claimed yesterday that racing in England should not be held so early in the year because of the climate. "The weather forecast does not sound too good — it would have been far better to have had the races in the summer," Fogarty, a former world champion, who rides a Ducati, said. Qualifying takes place today and tomorrow, with the race on Monday.

Coin curls Scotland's way

■ **CURLING:** The toss of a coin took David Smith's Scotland side to the semi-finals of the world championships in Kamloops, Canada, yesterday. Scotland beat Sweden, the holders, 4-1, and lost to Canada 5-6 on the final day of the round-robin stage of the tournament to finish in a tie for third place with Finland and Norway. Scotland will meet Sweden in the first semi-final, while Finland face Norway in a tie-break for the right to take on Canada. Scotland's success against Sweden hinged on the second end, when Warwick Smith set up a two-shot take.

Tomba ponders future

■ **SKIING:** Alberto Tomba said in Tokyo yesterday that he would take a few weeks before deciding whether or not to retire. Tomba, 31, won the last slalom race of the season in Crans Montana, Switzerland — his fiftieth World Cup victory. "If I had lost in the race, it would be easy for me to decide on retiring," he said, "but because I won, I am not yet able to reach a conclusion."



Black breezes through

■ **TENNIS:** Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, knocked out Gianluca Pozzi, the No 7 seed from Italy, 6-4, 6-0 to advance to the semi-finals of the Salem Open in Hong Kong. Black, ranked No 81 in the world, was in devastating form against the Pozzi, ranked No 70. Thomas Johansson, the No 3 seed from Sweden, joined him in the last four after struggling to a 7-6, 7-5 victory over Sandon Stolle, of Australia. Kenneth Carlsen, the No 8 seed from Denmark, had an easier time in his quarter-final, beating Neville Godwin, a qualifier from South Africa, 7-5, 6-1.

هكذا من الأصل

نقلاً من الأصل

Conditions keep field close and only ten break par after first round at Augusta

Faldo returns to leading bunch

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN AUGUSTA

AFTER the tumultuous events of the first round of the Masters, when a gusting wind sent scores soaring and only ten men from a field of 88 could break par, it was hardly possible that such difficulties could be posed once again to many of the world's best golfers.

Yet, on another clear but cold day, when a biting, swirling wind was once again present, the signs from the early starters in the second round at Augusta National suggested that what had been so difficult on Thursday was not much easier on Friday.

The wind had taken some distinguished hostages in the first round, men such as Tom Watson (78), Tom Lehman (80), Severiano Ballesteros (78), Costantino Rocca (81), Ben Crenshaw (83) and Ignacio Garrido (85). Yet it also meant that the field was bunched together.

More than half the players were within five strokes of Fred Couples, the leader and the only man to score in the 60s. "I feel I should play well here," Couples, the 1992 champion, said after his 69. "This is my favourite tournament on my favourite course and I have a lot of confidence here."

Only Matt Kuchar, the US Amateur champion, 19, held Augusta National in such high regard as Couples. Kuchar had a storybook first round when, playing alongside Tiger Woods, he outscored the champion for 15 holes until he hit his ball into the water on both the 15th and 16th. Still, his 72, level par, kept him in the hunt, even if Woods did beat him by one stroke in the end.

"Playing with Matt today reminds you of what it's like to go around all day with a smile on your face and to have no pressure on you," Woods said. "He did great. But for those two balls in the water, he could have been leading the tournament."

As Lehman, the 1996 Open champion, strove to reduce the 11-stroke gap that existed between him and Couples, he at least began to master the inward nine holes which had proved so tiresome to him in the first round. For a moment, Ballesteros may have thought that his luck was changing, too. He eagled the long 2nd hole, at which point he was back to four over par.

Ballesteros still looks very frail, though still prone to hit drives wildly off line, and five more shots were dropped on his way to the turn. Behind him, Ernie Els was another to eagle the 2nd but, just like Ballesteros, Els was unable to build on this and he promptly bogeyed the 3rd, one of the most difficult par-fours in all golf, and then the equally difficult 4th hole as well.

So far, this has been a trying week for Els, who had been one of the ten players not to complete their first rounds on Thursday night and thus had to return yesterday morning. When he did so, he three-putted the 18th for a 75 and he went to a quiet place near the clubhouse to be by himself and try and gather his thoughts.

Thursday had been a day of seesaw scores, one of the most unusual days at a Masters for many a long day. Montgomerie, for instance, had seven birdies in his 71, more birdies than anyone in the field, and came off the 18th feeling as if he had manufactured a good score against the odds.

He had negotiated his way around one of the most difficult courses in the world without the help of Alastair McLean, his caddie for nearly seven years, who had returned to Scotland earlier in the week to have an operation on his back. In Mclean's place, Montgomerie was using Joe Collins, a local caddie.

On the 14th and again on the 16th, Montgomerie sank long curling putts, the second one in particular seeming to veer almost at right angles before it fell into the hole.

"Who takes the credit for those putts on the 14 and 16th? You or your caddie?" Montgomerie was asked. "I do," Montgomerie replied. "I read the one at 14 and I have had that one at 16 before."

Good putting brought Nick Faldo right into contention after he had marked his ball on the 17th green on Thursday night and returned to complete his round at 7.30 yesterday morning. At the Players Championship two weeks ago, Faldo had declared his game was beginning to come together and he reiterated it during the early part of last week.

When he was three over par after eight holes in his first round, there did not seem to be much sign of a revival in the fortunes of the 1996 champion. But he sank a good putt on the 15th and another good one on the 16th.

"The last two times the pin has been in that position on the 16th, I've taken a four and a five," Faldo said. "So you can guess how pleased I was with a two."

When Faldo faced a six-foot putt on the 17th in the near-darkness of Thursday night, he decided to call it a day. "It was cold, dark and windy," he said. "I thought I'd rather leave it until the morning."

One reason for doing that was that he could hit 50 six-foot putts in practice, which is precisely what he did, and then, as if to show that practice does pay off, he sank the six-footer for his third birdie in a row.

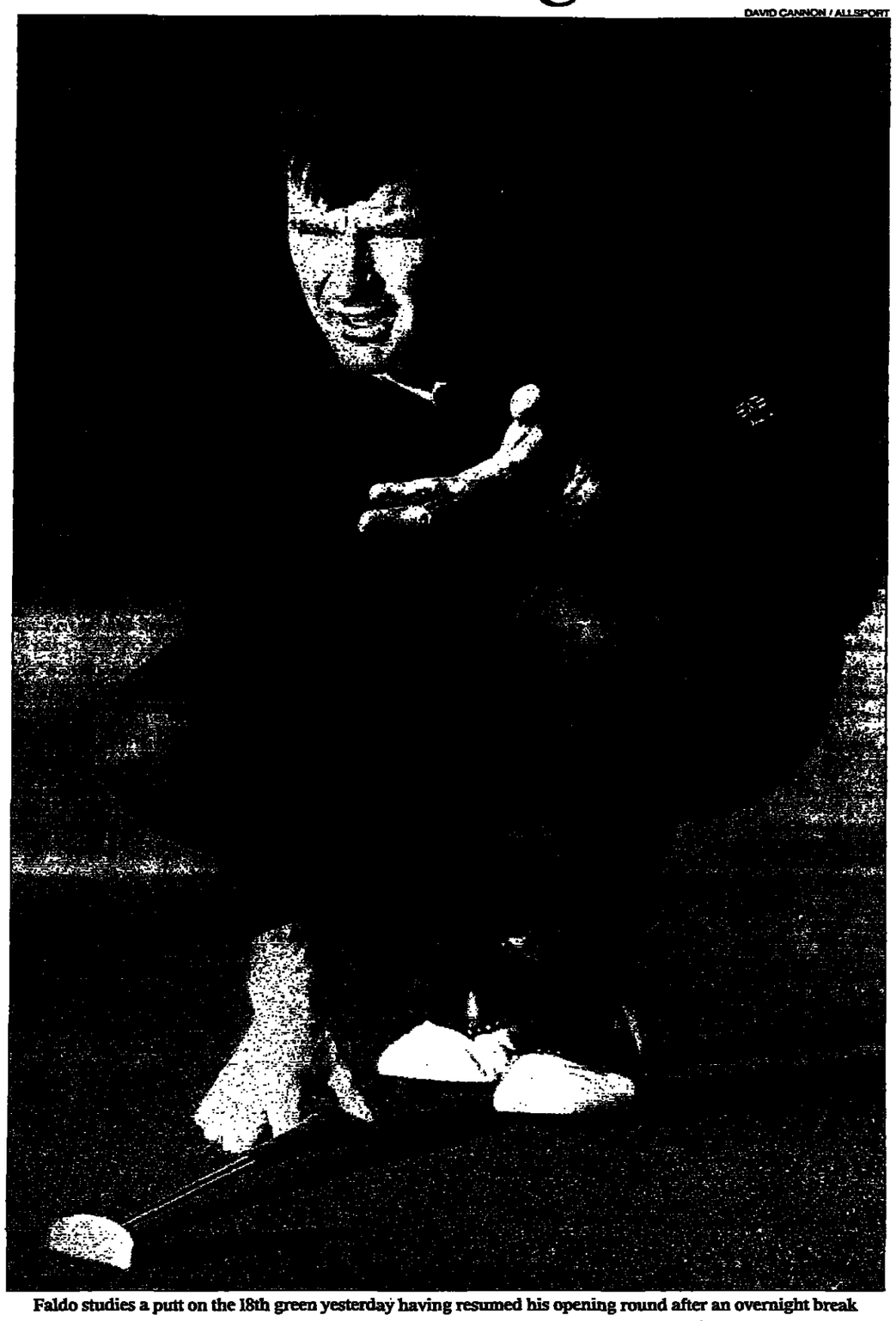
"The biggest challenge at Augusta, I've always said, is the wind," Watson pointed out. "The wind conditions are the most difficult to judge of any course that I play.

"You can talk all you want about British Open courses. You know where the wind's coming from there. You know the strength. Here you don't."

Watson continued: "You get up to the practice tee and the wind's blowing left to right and it's in your face at 17, which is completely the opposite direction. How does that happen? I don't know. You just have to play it by feel."

Augusta National was showing some character.

DAVID CANNON / ALLSPORT



Faldo studies a putt on the 18th green yesterday having resumed his opening round after an overnight break



Els: took time to recover after trying first round

COMPLETE FIRST-ROUND SCORES FROM AUGUSTA

United States unless stated

69: F Couples

70: J M Olazábal (Sp), S Hoch, P Stankowski

71: P Azinger, F Zoeller, P Blackmar, T Woods, C Montgomerie (GB), D Duval

72: G Brewer, J Haas, O Browne, J Maggert, * M Kuchar, N Faldo (GB), D Frost (SA)

73: C Pavin, S McCarron, B Faxon, T Kite, L Mize, M Bradley, J Nicklaus

74: W Wood, R Tway, * J Kribel, R Floyd, S Cink, A Magee, A Lyle (GB), P-U Johansson (Swe), M O'Meara, R Goosen (SA), M Calcavecchia, L Westwood (GB), D Love, I Woosnam, J Leonard, P Mickelson, S Maruyama (Japan)



75: D Toms, T Tolles, W Andrade, B Hughes (Aus), S Elkington (Aus), J Ozaki (Japan), B Langer (Ger), J Pamevik (Swe), N Price (Zim), E Els (SA), S Jones, J Cook

76: W R Brown, W Mayfair, D Clarke (GB), J Furyk, T Herron, L Janzen, G Norman (Aus), V Singh (Fiji)

77: D Ogrin, G Player (SA), J Huston, S Appleby (Aus), J Daly, F Nobilo (NZ)

78: T Watson, S Ballesteros (Sp), J Sluman

79: C Coody, F Funk, A Palmer, G Hjertstedt (Swe), * C Watson (GB), C Stadler, S Simpson

80: * T Clark (SA), T Lehman

81: W Casper, T Aaron, C Rocca (It)

82: * K Bakst, W Glasson, M Brooks

83: B Crenshaw

85: I Garrido (Sp)

86: D Ford

* *denotes amateur*

TELEVISION: Today: Live coverage on BBC2 from 8.10pm. Tomorrow: Live coverage on BBC2 from 8.30pm.

Zoeller shares tee with Woods in twist of fate

John Hopkins witnesses something of an unholy trinity for the second 18 holes

OF ALL the possible pairings for the second round, the one that the organisers did not want, Tiger Woods did not want and Fuzzy Zoeller did not want actually came to pass. They were paired with one another. Wouldn't you know it? Didn't someone named Sod say something about things like this happening?

Think of the pairings that would have been interesting yesterday. Ignacio Garrido and Tom Lehman, who faced each other in the singles at last year's Ryder Cup. Putting Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus together would have had every spectator over 55 rushing to follow them around the course. Severiano Ballesteros and Tom Kite, last year's Ryder Cup captains, side by side on the same fairways once again.

Instead, Woods, the first native American to win here, had to play with Zoeller, the man who made an insensitive racial remark after Woods's victory last year. "No problem," Woods said when the possibility of him playing with Zoeller was raised on Thursday evening. "It's just another pairing." The trouble was, it was anything but.

It was "anything but" because of Zoeller's remarks when he first praised Woods's skills and then made what was considered to be a racist comment about Woods's selection of food at the champion's dinner this year. He used the word "they" in reference to blacks in a way that was seen by Woods and many others to be sneering and disrespectful.

All the television networks had their cameras trained on Zoeller as he spoke, but declined to use the footage containing his remarks on the grounds that he was just joking, just being Fuzzy, the good ol' boy. It was only one week later, when an editor at CNN was spooling through old footage and came across this piece of film and decided to broadcast it that Zoeller's troubles began.

Two of Zoeller's sponsors cancelled contracts, costing him an estimated $1 million. Many non-whites in the United States (and many whites for that matter) were shocked by Zoeller's comment. Woods held his head high, as men tend to do when they feel they have been wronged. Zoeller apologised to a hurt Woods, who was slow to accept it. After a time, a sort of peace broke out.

And there it remained until television began its previews of this year's Masters and Zoeller's remarks were raised with Woods again. To the written media, Woods said: "It's done. It's a dead issue. We've talked about it. It's one of those situations that it's sad it did happen but it's over with and we've all moved on."

When Jimmy Roberts, on ESPN, an authoritative television network, asked if time had healed the wounds, Woods replied: "Heal? I don't think that's the word. Understand? Yes. Forgive? Yes. Forgotten? No."

A further twist was given to the story yesterday. Anxious to make sure that all competitors finished their second round on time, tournament officials decided to send them out in three-balls, not the normal two-balls, the first time that this has happened since the third round in 1983. So into the potentially explosive pairing of Woods and Zoeller was added... Colin Montgomerie, hardly the most placid customer who ever ventured out on to a golf course.

This was the worst thing that could have happened to Montgomerie, who is under pressure to find his best form. He is notoriously fidgety and prone to the slightest distraction when his game is not at its highest pitch.

In the second round of last year's US Open, for example, Montgomerie was twice involved in verbal exchanges with spectators. Perhaps as a result of such exchanges, he had a 76, having started with a 65.

Fuzzy, Monty and Tiger. It sounds like three animals in a zoo. It was not only the officials at Augusta National who were hoping there would be no zoo-like behaviour in the second round.





Montgomerie, left, and Zoeller went out with Woods, the champion, in the second round

Young hopefuls being starved of cash and encouragement

GOLF COMMENTARY

The name of Leslie Cox will not strike many chords, but he was a big cheese in junior golf in Gloucestershire nearly 40 years ago. Indeed, without him, there might not have been a county junior side and John Bloxham might not have gone on to represent England, nor Keith Irwin to get a Blue, nor Philip Mawson to become the professional at Bristol and Clifton, where he remains to this day.

I grew up at Stinchcombe Hill, where the wind comes whistling over the last escarpment before the Cotswolds tumble down to the Severn plain. The club's junior section was run by Bob Griffiths, a local teacher. There were about a dozen of us, at most, and, when the annual championship came round, he insisted on single sex pairings, fearing hanky panky in the grass bunkers on the 9th.

Despite such deprivations, two recent events have made me realise that to be a junior golfer in the early Sixties was more fulfilling than it is in the Nineties. The sort of care and attention I and my young friends received from Cox is not now available at hundreds of clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland. Progress, what progress?

A recent issue of *Golf World* contains the results of a survey that included some questions about junior golf. "Is enough being done to recruit youngsters to the sport?" was one question. "Does your club do a good job in encouraging youngsters?" was another. More than 80 per cent of those who responded said "no" to each one.

Many clubs have little or no regard for juniors. No wonder the average age of the British golfer has risen from 41 to 45 since 1990. In the same time, the percentage of golfers over 55 has risen by nearly half and the number of those under 25 has dropped 30 per cent.

The honourable exceptions to the general rule include The Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour, in association with *The Times*. Nick Faldo recently launched a junior series to nurture young champions of the 21st century. Perhaps the most successful and, in some ways, least heralded, is the Golf Foundation, the national body for the development of junior golf in Great Britain and Ireland. Since it was founded in 1952, players such as Brian Barnes, Peter Oosterhuis, Mickey Walker, Bernard Gallacher, now the president, Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood have either had lessons under its auspices or competed in its competitions. The Foundation's latest attempt to reach more juniors is a £1.3 million drive to set up starter centres where they can be coached by PGA members.

Is this enough? It is a start, but that is all and, if you do not agree with me, then perhaps you will believe the respondents to the *Golf World* survey. "Would you be prepared to pay a yearly levy of say £5 towards supporting junior golf?" was another question the magazine's readers were asked. Nearly 80 per cent of those polled responded in the affirmative.

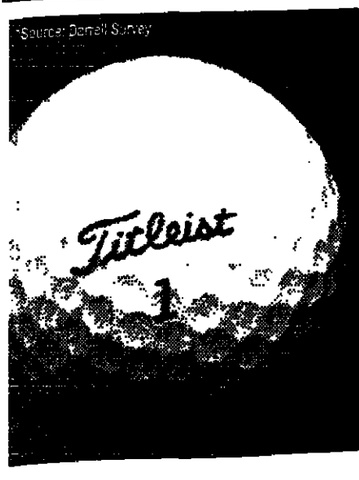
The Foundation has supported junior golf for more than 40 years and each year awards a prize to the club that donates the largest sum of money to its appeal. You would think that all the 2,329 golf facilities in the United Kingdom would support such a worthy cause. In fact, fewer than 1,000 contributed last year. Royal Birkdale, which will host this year's Open, gave £128; Royal Troon, where the Open was held last year, £100; Royal Lytham and St Annes gave £330. Sunningdale, where the side bets in any four-ball are likely to exceed the average monthly wage, did not donate a penny. Nor did Carnoustie, where the Open is going in 1999.

As the average age of golfers has risen, so their interest in juniors has declined. This is borne out by the way the sum donated to the Foundation's annual appeal has fallen — from £93,032 in 1993 to £75,789 in 1994 and £56,165 in 1996. You can hear the members saying one to another: "We're alright, aren't we? We can still have our midweek match, 50p on the front nine, 50p on the back nine and £1 on the match and be home in time for tea. Juniors? Yes, we applaud them. Jolly good idea. They're the future of the club. But they must not hold us up on the course, take our tee-times or clutter up the clubhouse."

Who will suffer as the members become too old to continue to run the affairs of their clubs? The clubs themselves. When the supply of young blood dries up, the clubs that are so stinting now will be in a parlous state. They might be able to manage in 1998, but they will be in trouble in 2008. And they will have no one to blame but themselves. Serve them right, I say.

JOHN HOPKINS

*Source: Darrell Survey



IT'S NOT SO MUCH WHICH BALL THE PRO'S PLAY AT THE MASTERS. IT'S WHICH TITLEIST.

The Masters at Augusta National. So much golf to be played, so many questions to be answered. Will Tiger triumph again? Maybe Monty's time has come? How will the in-form Westwood fare? We can speculate all we like, but for now there's only one result that's cut and dried. Once again Titleist is the overwhelming choice* of the world's top players as they strive for the coveted green jacket. What's more, a win for one of the many Titleist players will bring us our eighth Major win on the spin. So let battle commence. And may the best ball win.

Titleist
#1 ball in golf.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Kevin McCarra on a match that may decide the destiny of the Scottish championship

Celtic learn to bear burden of expectation

Wim Jansen was at his most animated yesterday when discussing Kaiserslautern's bizarre inability to polish off Borussia Dortmund in this week's 1-1 draw in the Bundesliga. The Celtic head coach's update on his satellite viewing was disconcerting, given that his team faces a crucial match with Rangers at Ibrox tomorrow.

His apparent indifference to Old Firm rivalry might be attributed to a foreigner's detachment, but he may also have been relishing the bracing effect of the past few days. Last Sunday, Celtic were knocked out of the Tennents Scottish Cup by Rangers, but that reverse was followed by a demonstration of robust morale that would have cheered any manager.

At Kilmarnock, Jansen's side repelled accusations of tiredness and frail temperament by forcing themselves to a 2-1 victory at a venue that has often been the burial ground of their hopes. With that result, their three-point lead over Rangers in the Bell's Scottish League premier division was re-established.

Celtic have not held such an advantage in the approach to the final Old Firm fixture since they last won the title in 1988. Mood, however, is never entirely explained by logic. Rangers, with just as much sense, can see the match tomorrow on their own ground as an inviting opportunity to pull level with their great rivals.



Smith: approaching final weeks in charge at Ibrox

It may be that Celtic are encouraged because they proved to themselves at Rugby Park that they are capable of performing well while shouldering the burdens of expectation that come with leadership of the premier division. "The result gave the players a lot of confidence in the way we play," Jansen said. It is a style that would once have been thought alien to the club.

Although they cannot be accused of outright defensiveness, Celtic are conservative and Jansen much prefers prudence to adventure. His side has functioned well when acting with restraint. Celtic have taken half of their points in away fixtures, perhaps benefiting on those occasions from the absence of a fevered crowd urging them to recklessness.

Jansen should be able to pick his favoured defence at Ibrox. Minor injuries are expected to clear in time, allowing Alan Stubbs and Jackie McNamara to return to the squad. Tom Boyd and Enrico Annoni will probably also recover from knocks collected at Rugby Park. An extensive pool, however, will do nothing to reduce the tension.

Heart of Midlothian, four points behind Celtic, are still contenders for the title, but no supporter of the Old Firm clubs will be able to spare a thought for the Edinburgh side's derby match with Hibernian at Easter Road this afternoon. On a professional basis, several figures at Ibrox will be emotionally entangled with the match against Celtic for the last time.

Walter Smith stands down as manager at the end of the season and veteran players such as Ally McCoist and Andy Goram are not expected to be part of the new regime that will be instituted when Dick Advocaat takes over in the summer. In recent weeks, the old guard at Ibrox have seemed determined that the poignancy of the closing weeks of their time at Ibrox should not be allowed to deteriorate into sadness.

The season has been a ramshackle affair for Rangers, with injuries, loss of form, the speculation over Brian Laudrup's departure and the sale of Paul Gascoigne creating an air of chaos. In recent weeks, though, order has been restored. The 3-0 victory over Hibernian ten days ago saw the club win a third successive league match for the first time this season.

"We knew that we had to go out and win the games that were left," Smith said, "and there has been a good response from the players. Now we need a performance like the one we produced at Celtic Park in the second half last week, although it would be better if it lasted a bit longer than that." The cup-tie comforted Rangers by demonstrating that their old authority remains.



Jansen: putting prudence before sense of adventure

Goram and McCoist slipped into familiar roles, the goalkeeper infuriating Celtic with an adamantine performance and the forward giving his team the lead. Lorenzo Amoruso made his first appearance for Rangers, as a substitute, and should start the game tomorrow. Sergio Porrini is ruled out by injury.

After the Old Firm match, Celtic have three of their last four fixtures at home while Rangers face a gruelling programme. Defeat at Ibrox would not be disastrous for Jansen's team, but the players know that they have the opportunity to land a decisive blow in the championship. To do so, Celtic will have to prove that they now possess the knack of winning the key contest. It is a forte that has been the exclusive property of Rangers since 1988.

RACE FOR THE TITLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CELTIC	31	20	6	5	57	20	66
RANGERS	31	18	7	4	69	35	63
HEARTS	31	18	2	5	64	38	62

REMAINING FIXTURES

CELTIC		RANGERS	
Tomorrow	v Rangers (A)	Tomorrow	v Celtic (H)
April 18	v Motherwell (H)	April 19	v Aberdeen (A)
April 25	v Hibernian (H)	April 25	v Hearts (A)
May 3	v Dunfermline (A)	May 2	v Kilmarnock (H)
May 9	v St Johnstone (H)	May 9	v Dundee (H)

HEARTS	
Today	v Hibernian (A)
April 18	v St Johnstone (H)
April 25	v Rangers (H)
May 2	v Aberdeen (A)
May 9	v Dunfermline (H)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: TOP-TWO PLACE COMES INTO FOCUS FOR CURBISHLEY WHILE BURNS RUES READING'S LENGTHENING INJURY LIST

Charlton maintain automatic pressure

Charlton Athletic 3
Reading 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GOOD Friday for Charlton Athletic, black Friday for Reading. As Charlton as good as qualified for the Nationwide League first division play-offs and simultaneously edged towards an automatic promotion place, Reading further contemplated the probability of life in the second division next season.

Few games in April are without such mixed emotions, when the high and mighty make a last push for honours and the low and slow scramble desperately to retain their status. It often makes for poor viewing, a sorry spectacle produced by players scared of their own shadows, and rarely gives a true indication of the sides' respective merits.

Yesterday, on a pudding of a pitch, Charlton did not appear to be live contenders for a place in the FA Carling Premiership. Bifteck, the band, and Bjorn Arvidsson, the tenor, provided tuneful, if contrasting, pre-match entertainment, but the rest of the home performers were distinctly second-rate.

Neither did Reading appear to be ready for the drop, despite lacking six central defenders because of injury. They worked hard for Tommy Burns, their new manager, and constructed intricate moves not usually associated with sides about to fall to their ninth successive away defeat.

As frequently happens, though, fortune seems to favour those who do not need it. Reading gave away a sloppy early goal, lost two more players because of injury in the first half and then slipped further behind when Mick Pierce, the referee, awarded the most contentious of free kicks against them.

Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, is one of the less blinkered members of his profession and so told it as it was: "When you're near the bottom of the league, those sort of things tend to happen. When you're at the top, most things seem to go your way.

"Nobody's been talking about the play-offs here or automatic promotion, but I suppose, if we win all our remaining games, then we might have a shout of going straight up. We're on a bit of a roll."

Charlton, with four successive wins behind them, went ahead in the sixth minute from a huge clearance by Ilic, their goalkeeper. Reading's makeshift defence of Bernal, Parkinson and Gray — two midfield players and a full back — failed to cope with it and Mendonca guided in his 22nd goal of the season.

Reading lost Legg, with a hamstring strain and could have equalised when Crawford exchanged passes with Fleck, only to see his shot blocked by Ilic. However, with McIntyre limping after sustaining a knee injury, their fortunes dipped again in the 43rd minute.

Mills clearly slipped in the mud under Caskey's challenge, but Pierce strangely ruled that Caskey had fouled him. Mortimer stepped up and curled a delightful free kick past Howie, further compounding the referee's error.

Reading reorganised again during half-time, switching to a more reliable 4-4-2 formation from their earlier 3-6-1 and 3-5-2 systems. It worked well for a time, with Ilic having to block efforts from Lambert and Crawford, but Charlton slowly regained control in a manner more in keeping with their aspirations.

Twelve minutes from the end, they flattered the scoreline with a third goal when Newton escaped along the right flank and crossed to the near post for Bright, a substitute, to nod firmly past Howie. Unless they fail to pick up another point and Birmingham City win their remaining five matches by unrealistic margins, Charlton are in the play-offs.

Plans are already in hand to raise the roof of the West Stand to accommodate 4,000 extra supporters in the ground. The Valley will be ready for the Premiership. Quite what fare the Reading fans will be watching next season, when the club moves to its new, £37 million, 25,000-capacity Madejski Stadium, is a different matter.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): S Ilic — D Mills, R Rufus, E Youds, A Barness — S Newton, M Kinsella (sub: S Brown, 80min), K Jones, P Mortimer (sub: N Heaney, 74) — S Jones (sub: M Bright, 74), C Mendonca.
READING (3-6-1): S Howie — A Bernal, P Parkinson, S Gray — R Fleck (sub: T Morley, 76), J Crawford, D Caskey, M O'Neill, J Lambert, A Legg (sub: M Meaker, 13) — J McIntyre (sub: P Grayson, 45).
Referee: M Pierce.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	41	25	8	8	72	38	83
* Sunderland	40	23	10	7	74	41	79
Charlton	42	23	9	10	76	49	78
Middlesbro	40	22	9	9	65	38	75
Sheffield Utd	39	18	14	7	57	41	68
Ipswich	40	18	13	9	65	40	67
Birmingham	41	16	15	10	53	34	63
Wolves	40	17	9	14	47	40	60
Bradford	41	14	14	13	44	45	56
West Brom	41	15	11	15	41	47	56
Stockport	41	16	7	18	62	60	55
Oxford Utd	41	15	8	18	55	55	53
Swindon	41	14	9	18	39	60	51
Crewe	40	15	5	20	46	57	50
Huddersfield	41	12	11	18	47	60	47
Tranmere	40	12	11	17	45	50	47
Bury	41	9	19	13	39	50	46
Port Vale	41	12	9	20	50	58	45
* QPR	41	10	15	16	45	56	45
Norwich	41	11	12	18	39	65	45
Man City	41	11	10	20	47	49	43
Portsmouth	41	11	10	20	44	58	43
Reading	42	11	9	22	38	72	42
Stoke	41	9	13	19	38	63	40

* not including last night's match

MIKE HEWITT / ALLSPORT



Mendonca, No 10, celebrates scoring the opening goal with a Charlton team-mate at The Valley yesterday

Ward puts the champagne on ice

BY RICHARD HOBSON

BRISTOL CITY will delay celebrating promotion from the Nationwide League second division until the end of the Bank Holiday. By then, they may have secured the title too. Grimsby Town's failure to beat Wycombe Wanderers yesterday guaranteed City a top two finish little more than a year since John Ward took over as manager.

City were preparing for today's game at Burnley when the 1-1 result came through from Adams Park. If Watford lose to Wrexham this afternoon, then City will seal the championship with victories against Burnley and then Watford, their closest rivals, on Easter Monday. Alternatively, Watford will move to within a point of promotion if they beat Wrexham.

City directors have budgeted for a turnover of £5 million next season. However, it is unlikely that any of that money will be spent on buying Jason Roberts, a striker on loan from Wolverhampton Wanderers. Roberts left for an international tournament for Grenada without permission yesterday.

Regardless of what happens over the next three days, Watford seem certain to join City in the first division next season. They have a nine-point lead over third-placed Grimsby with a game in hand.

Paul Gascoigne could make his return for Middlesbrough in the first division fixture away to Reading on Monday with Viv Anderson, the assistant manager, dismissing suggestions that the England midfield player's lack of fitness will force him to miss the World Cup. "He could have done without the week off, but France will not be a problem," Anderson said.

Gascoigne has been ruled out of the game against Bury at the Riverside Stadium this afternoon because of a bruised foot. Should Middlesbrough succeed, then Bryan Robson may decide to hold back Gascoigne, particularly as he is yet to successfully assimilate Hamilton Ricard, the Colombia striker, into the team at a time when familiarity counts for so much.

Like Gascoigne, Alan Durban has little time to adjust to a new role. Appointed caretaker-manager of Stoke City on Wednesday, he has five games to fever the club out of the bottom three. Stoke entertain Portsmouth, just two places above them, this afternoon.

"We have to repeat our form of earlier in the season, which means removing the fear factor and playing with confidence," Durban said. "I put out a strong reserve side against Aston Villa this week to try a few things out and while it was a bit risky, because we could have picked up injuries, it turned out to be a very useful exercise."

Swindon Town, who led the table in November, will honour a pledge to refund season ticket-holders after failing to secure a place in the play-offs. Those who renewed tickets before the start of the season will receive £20 each, costing the club £50,000. It remains to be seen whether Swindon are confident enough to repeat the offer.

Doncaster Rovers will lose their league status this afternoon if they lose at Chester City while Hull City take a point from their home game against Hartlepool. Even a draw will be insufficient should Hull win and Brighton beat Notts County, the champions.

£30m deal to keep young United trio

BY DAVID MADDOCK AND RICHARD HOBSON

MANCHESTER UNITED are close to securing the long-term futures of three of their brightest young players. Contract negotiations with David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt are said to be at "an advanced stage" by a senior official at Old Trafford.

The combined six-year deals would cost Manchester United in the region of £30 million. "We are at an advanced stage and it looks like all of them will agree," a senior United source said. If they sign the contracts, Scholes, Butt and Beckham will earn in excess of £20,000 per week.

Savo Milosevic will end his turbulent three-year association with Aston Villa at the end of the season. Milosevic has been the subject of transfer speculation for most of his time at Villa Park and has often expressed his desire to leave.

Now, after holding more talks about his future with John Gregory, it appears that the Villa manager would not be sorry to see him go. "He said he did not want to stay and that was it for me," Gregory said. "As soon as we can arrange a satisfactory deal for the club, he will be on his bike."

Villa will ask for around £4.2 million for the Yugoslavia striker, a profit of £700,000 on his acquistion from Partizan Belgrade. Udinese, the Italian club, is believed to have made a preliminary inquiry. Milosevic has previously rejected moves to Perugia and Napoli, while Villa turned down an offer of £3 million from Benfica last December.

Meanwhile, Steve Staunton will wait until the end of the season before deciding whether to stay with the club. The Ireland defender will become the best-paid player at Villa Park if he accepts a new deal, but is available on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling.

Arsenal, who have their sights set on winning the FA Carling Premiership and the FA Cup this season, have secured a notable double already with Arsène Wenger named as the Carling Manager of the Month and Alex Manninger, their young Austrian goalkeeper, taking the player award for March.

Kasey Keller, the United States goalkeeper, will be offered improved terms by Leicester City. He has a year remaining on his contract, but will delay negotiations for an extension until after the World Cup in France this summer.

Lee Sharpe is hoping to make his comeback for Leeds United in a reserve game later this month. Sharpe has missed the entire season so far after undergoing an operation on cruciate ligaments.

Too little too late for tired Grimsby

Wycombe Wanderers ... 1
Grimsby Town 1

BY PAT GIBSON

A LAST-MINUTE equaliser by Jack Lester gave Grimsby Town the point that they deserved to keep them on course for the play-offs, but it was Bristol City who were celebrating last night because this result guarantees them promotion to the Nationwide League first division.

Watford will be almost certain to go up with them if they beat Wrexham at Vicarage Road today, leaving third-placed Grimsby to rue an untimely loss of form that has seen them take three points from their past five games.

Grimsby's consolation is that they seem sure to be in the play-offs, since they are seven points clear of Gillingham in seventh place. They have never been to Wembley, but they have a chance of getting there twice this season with their place in the Auto Windscreens Trophy final against Bournemouth already booked for a week on Sunday.

They also reached the fourth round of both the Coca-Cola Cup and the FA Cup and such success takes its toll on a club with limited resources. This was their sixtieth match of the season and it showed against a physical Wycombe Wanderers side that snatched an early goal and then defended in increasing numbers.

Grimsby, by common consent the best footballing side in the second division, made a bright start, but their defence looked lethargic when Keith Scott was left completely unmarked to head in the second of two corners from the right by Dave Carroll.

Grimsby also lacked sharpness in front of goal. Some of their passing was superb, but they did not create too many clear openings. When they did, Lester twice had his legs taken from under him, but, on each occasion, an inconsistent referee waved aside Grimsby's penalty claims.

It looked as though Grimsby were running out of steam when first Stallard and then Scott had shots saved by Davison in Wycombe breakaways. Then, with just a minute remaining, Grimsby drew level.

Lever played a long ball out of defence to set Donovan free on the right and his cross bounced perfectly for Lester to volley past Taylor and high into the net.

"It would have been a travesty if we had lost," Alan Buckley, the Grimsby manager, said. "We dominated 75 per cent of the game, our passing and movement were really good and I thought we played really well against the 14 men of Wycombe." It was an obvious reference to the referee and his linesmen.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (5-3-2): M Taylor, J Kavanagh, K Ryan, J Cousins, N Mohan, A Beeton, D Carroll, S Brown, M Harkin, K Scott, M Stallard.
GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Davison, J McDermott, P Handyside, M Lever, T Gallimore (sub: K Black, 73min), K Donovan, W Burnett, P Groves, D Smith, L Nogan, J Lester.
Referee: P D'Urso

Play-off place in reach of Rovers

Bristol Rovers 5
Wigan Athletic 0

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

"THEY'VE got to win," a charity collector outside the Memorial Ground said before the kick-off. With five games to go and Bristol Rovers the same number of points behind the Nationwide League second-division play-off places, that hardly needed saying, but a determined display in the opening 45 minutes laid the foundations for the first of the five victories that many feel are necessary for Rovers to extend their season.

Wigan Athletic, who have pulled themselves together of late after looking likely to return to the third division, of which they were champions last season, could have been tricky opponents, especially in view of the match between these teams in December, when Rovers finished with seven men after a flurry of red cards.

However, with Ian Holloway, the Rovers player-manager of Rovers, driving his team forward after restoring himself to midfield, and Barry Hayles, the top scorer, in electric form, the first half was one-sided in the extreme.

After a number of near-misses, it was no surprise when Holloway and Hayles combined to give Rovers the lead after 24 minutes. Hayles was left with the simple task of rolling home a loose ball for his twentieth goal of the season after Carroll, the Wigan goalkeeper, had lost Holloway's corner.

If the first goal was scrappy, the second is unlikely to be bettered in any division this weekend. Ramasut, something of a specialist from long range, was given all the space he needed to hit a superb angled 30-yarder that arrowed across Carroll into the far corner.

Hayles could have added two more, but instead Beadle, his striking partner, clearly felt it was his turn to take the spotlight, squeezing a rebound between Carroll and his near post in first-half stoppage time. Anyone feeling Rovers might settle for a three-goal advantage had their answer soon after the restart when Beadle added another, then completed his hat-trick in the 56th minute after Foster had headed on Holloway's free kick.

Holloway had spoken previously of the "massive weekend" facing his team, while Phil Bater, the coach, had written in the match programme that Rovers were capable of five wins, no matter the opposition.

Even with third-placed Grimsby Town awaiting them at Blundell Park on Monday, it could happen.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): L Jones — D Pritchard, S Foster, A Tillson, M Lockwood — J Curelton, J Holloway, L Zabek, T Ramasut — P Beadle, B Hayles.
WIGAN ATHLETIC (4-3-3): R Carroll — C Bradshaw, S Green (sub: N Whitworth, 46min), R Newman, K Sharp — R Martinez, S Morgan, I Kilford (sub: J Smeets, 69) — I Diaz, S Barlow, G Jones (sub: P Warne, 45).
Referee: S Barnes

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Saviour keeps looking up

Southampton, perennial strugglers, have raised their sights a long way in a season under Dave Jones

OLIVER HOLT



Dave Jones has rehearsed his favourite anecdote until he has got it off-pat. I heard him relate it a couple of weeks ago after his Southampton side had pushed Newcastle United further into trouble at The Dell. He told it again on *Match of the Day* that night and once more, for good measure, a few days later as he sat in the low-slung pavilion at the club's picturesque training ground on the outskirts of the city.

It is a salutary story, a warning against pessimism and the vulnerability of the meek. Like the man himself, it does not stray into bitterness or excessive self-regard, but it is tinged with just enough resentment and scorn to remind you of the qualities Jones needed to drag Southampton out of their perennially grim battle against relegation.

It tells you, too, that for all the inspiration provided by Matt Le Tissier over the years, all the seasons of papering over the cracks on the South Coast, there is a new saviour in town. This time, the goal goes far beyond just staying up. This time, it is all about moving up and then further up.

"When I came here," Jones says, going into his routine, "I honestly thought that the club wasn't called Southampton. I thought it was called Struggling Southampton because that was all that was ever said about them. And I wanted to change that."

Change it, he has. If Jones and his players beat Wimbledon at The Dell today and Bolton Wanderers and Barnsley both lose, Southampton will have guaranteed themselves another year of FA Carling Premiership football four weeks before the end of the season.

It will seem strange not including them in all the various relegation permutations, the calculations of how many points they need and the dire warnings that if Le Tissier does not perform they are doomed. This year, for once, their supporters will be able to sit back like passengers in a lifeboat as the big ships fight to stay afloat.

And if at first there were many among the critics who mocked the appointment of Jones before the start of the season and asked where the big name was to effect Southampton's salvation, they will be busy eating their words this weekend. Indeed, if there is any justice, the people who decide the manager of the year award should be arguing now about the respective merits of Jones and Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager.

The success that Jones, 42, a former Everton player and social worker, has enjoyed has a significance that goes beyond Southampton. His achievements there should have proved to chairmen that they need not look for big-name foreign coaches to guide them, that there are more where he came from in the Nationwide League, that men like Stan Ternent, of Bury, and Alan Curbishley, of Charlton Athletic, deserve a shot at the big time.

Jones, like Strachan, has done more than just drag an under-achieving club to safety. He has not just patched things up. In less than nine months, the man who took Stockport County from relative obscurity to the first division and the semi-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup has changed the whole philosophy at Southampton, changed the mood and the outlook. The reliance on Le Tissier has gone for a start and it seems suddenly as if anything is possible.

"When I came to the football club," Jones said, "I went to a lot of meetings of the supporters and all they ever spoke about was survival. Then all of a sudden here I am saying: 'Why just think about survival? Why not aim for the top rather than the mentality of finishing fourth from bottom because, if you fall just short of it, then you are out of the Premiership?' "

"We were bottom of the table for one week back at the start of the season. I had never been bottom of the league as a player, manager, coach whatever. Even when I played in the Sunday league, I had never been bottom. It was a feeling I didn't like and I didn't want to be there much longer than I was.

"Football is all about confidence and results. The only way that you seem to gain confidence is by winning games and when we got on a little bit of a roll, it just seemed to take off. There is a belief in the camp that they can beat anybody, and I mean anybody, and that is what you should get in any football club, regardless of whether you are Southampton or Man United or whoever. You have to believe that you can beat anybody, or don't go out and play."

At the beginning, it was harder than he expected. Southampton garnered just four points from their first eight games and suddenly everyone was talking about Jones as if he was some sort of silly Scouser who had wandered down from the North and bitten off far more than he could chew. Those people did him a favour. They gave him an even greater incentive to succeed.

Even in the midst of that crisis, Jones did not panic. He waited for the men he needed. He bought David Hirst from Sheffield Wednesday and he persuaded Carlton Palmer to move south after his purgatory at Leeds United. Paul Jones, the goalkeeper he brought with him from Stockport, found his feet about that time, too, and suddenly things began to look up.

Jones the manager, of course, had never had any doubts. He may talk softly in a voice loaded with ironies and asides and gentle humour, but there is a steel in his soul that is impossible to miss. There is an intensity and a drive about him, an absolute commitment to success that glints at you like a row of silver teeth through his smile.

"I got annoyed at the start of the season when I took over here that so-called experts had decided my future and the club's future and they did not know me. They did not know what I was about or anything. They just assumed that a manager coming in from Stockport County to Southampton was too big a gamble. But I knew I had had a good education and I was given an opportunity that I could not turn down.

"The so-called experts, the muppets off the television, said they would rather watch paint dry than watch Southampton play and that was after about four or five games. I just think that is crazy. I got a little bit annoyed about that, and I wanted to prove people wrong. They had decided my future virtually before a ball had been kicked. There is a bit more about me than that. I am a fighter and I was always going to hang in there.

"The players here had had five managers in five years, so there was never any continuity. The players needed to get to know me, I needed to get to know them, how I work, how they work, what I was thinking, what they were thinking, and that just does not happen overnight.

"All I want to do is to prove people wrong by showing that I can manage in the Premiership and that I can hold my own and look after myself. We have the players here to succeed and now we have to get continuity and stability. I want other clubs to think that The Dell is a hard place to come to and not just think they can pick up three easy points along the way. I want Southampton to be a force. That is down to good players and hard work."

'He has changed the philosophy, the mood and the outlook'

And as Jones talks on and refers again and again to his plans for "the football club", he inspires a certainty that, with him at the helm, Southampton can complete an unlikely return to the ranks of the country's leading clubs. There is a solidity about him, a long-termism that suggests things will get better and better. "We are eleventh now and I want to be tenth," he says. "When we are tenth, I will want to be ninth. It will go on like that."

He is fiercely ambitious, but if he can hang on to players like Le Tissier and Kevin Davies, Jones, Palmer and Egil Ostenstad and acquire a few more besides, then a challenge for a European place next season is not out of the question.

Then, perhaps, he will have acquired the kind of reputation that others once bemoaned he lacked. "I think everybody assumes that when a Premiership job comes available, it is going to go to a big name," Jones says. "Well, I don't know what a big name is. I have maintained all along that if you put my middle name in, it makes 15 letters and if that is not big enough for anybody, then I don't know what they want."

For Dave Jones, the rehearsing is now over and the stage beckons.



"He may talk softly in a voice loaded with gentle humour, but there is a steel in his soul." Photograph: Marc Aspland

Blowing the whistle on a lost sense of humour

Mark Hodkinson on a double-act helping supporters to smile again

LIFE AT THE TOP

A NEATLY-typed agenda was handed to everyone attending the monthly meeting of the Barnsley Supporters Club. It remained unread, left on chairs or *tucked into* pockets; everyone knew the night's business anyway.

Barnsley fans are still simmering about the performance of Gary Willard, the referee in charge of the 3-2 home defeat against Liverpool, when three of their players were sent off. While their anger was once naked and hostile, it is now tempered with reason and not a little humour. A shopkeeper in the town has stuck a poster in his window: "Body parts shrunk to order. Premier League referees done free."

The guest speakers on Thursday evening were two FA Carling Premiership referees, Uriah Rennie and Steve Lodge. Since they are from Yorkshire — regional loyalty even runs to a pride in its own referees — and ineligible to referee Barnsley's league games, their reception was more cordial than might have been expected. If the agenda had mentioned one G. Willard from Worthing, however, the beer would have been served in plastic glasses.

"He should not be allowed near Oakwell for a very, very long time — if ever," one fan implored. "Paul Ince made more decisions than he did," another complained. "The guy was appalling and there is quite clear evidence that we are sick of it," a voice at the back said. Although there is obvious dismay about the sendings-off, the main tenet of supporters' anger is a perceived injustice: "They are frightened to death of booking internationals and all these famous players, *frightened to death.*"

> "The regional loyalty runs to pride in its own referees"

Barnsley on a cold night is some prospect, but compound it with a foaming discontent and a mistrust of anyone on nodding terms with Willard and one might expect a simpering telephone call two hours before the meeting: "This sniffle has turned into quite a bad cold, Mr Chairman . . ."

Not so. Step forward, Rennie and Lodge. The names have the genial zing of a comedy double act and, when the nefarious world of big-time football has no more use of these men, they *should* be booked immediately on a theatre tour of Britain's seaside towns.

They arrived resplendent in freshly-pressed blazers and fairly gambolled into the room. Lodge, hair combed forward, looked as if he had been dressed and groomed by his mother for his first day at school. He has the shy, understated demeanour of a schoolboy, but also that withering stare exclusive to Yorkshiremen. Their mouths stay shut, but the pinched, pained expression says: "Tha's a pillock, and *tha probably* knows it too."

Rennie is all smiles and charm, the Eric Morecambe to Lodge's Ernie Wise. He rolls his shoulders, tosses back his head. He praises Barnsley for its good-looking women and asks for more ladies to supply questions. He jokes about his footballing skills: "I was quality. Do you remember Socrates, the Brazilian midfielder? I modelled myself on him." Only once does the smile leave his face, when he is asked yet again about Willard. "I am not the PR guy for our friends down South," he says. Subject closed.

A supporter had heard a rumour about big clubs and their, hmmm, special relationship with referees. "I've heard that they meet you at the motorway, give you a chauffeur-driven ride to your hotel . . ."

He wants to list the other wonderful acts of kindness, but is interrupted by Lodge. "Now you'll be saying they give us a little brown envelope next, won't you?" he says. "A big brown envelope would be better," Rennie laughs. "Is that taxable though?" Lodge counters.

At this point, supporters' club officials are scanning the top table for the duo's scripts. For the record, Rennie had to make his own cup of tea during a recent visit to Old Trafford, so much for championship hospitality.

Rennie confirmed that managers were sometimes aggressive towards referees when out of sight of the pitch. "They come down the corridor shouting F-words and kicking doors. I tell them to go away and cool down and then come back later. I will not have anyone coming in my dressing-room belittling me," he said.

Several Barnsley supporters expressed surprise that Georgi Hristov, their Macedonia striker, had been sent off for swearing against Leeds United last Saturday. "I thought he couldn't speak English," pondered one. An explanation was at hand. "He only knows two words, and the second one is off."

David Mellor, the host of *Radio 5 Live's* phone-in programme, *Six-O-Six*, was also implicated in the conspiracy theories that have beset Barnsley. "He only let a few people from Barnsley speak after the Liverpool game," one grumbled. "He's a prat," another added.

There is, evidently, a smile back on the face of Barnsley, even if it is a smile in crisis.

STEVE FORREST / GUZELIAN



Premiership referees Rennie, centre, and Lodge, right, face the music at Barnsley Supporters Club

Vialli flies in the face of continental custom

BRIAN GLANVILLE



For Gianluca Vialli, next Thursday will be, if not quite the moment of truth, then one of high significance as Vicenza come to Stamford Bridge holding a 1-0 lead from the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final.

There is little doubt that, in Italy, Chelsea were still feeling the reaction from the 120 minutes that they played the previous Sunday, when they won the Coca-Cola Cup final against Middlesbrough, a success that established Vialli as a winning player-manager. But less than a year ago, so was his predecessor, Ruud Gullit, when Chelsea won the far more resplendent FA Cup, and where is he now?

Both, like Glenn Hoddle before them, have functioned in a double role that is unknown in almost all other leading footballing countries.

Vialli, who won his players' admiration and respect when he stood down from appearing at Wembley last month, got things convincingly right when Chelsea defeated Real Betis, of Spain, both away and at home, in the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final. In Vicenza, he seemed to be less sure-footed.

It was hard to understand why Gianfranco Zola was exiled to the left wing for so much of the game and not much easier to comprehend why, when Tore Andre Flo ultimately appeared, the quintessential centre forward was used on the right flank.

Vialli, who nearly equalised with a header from a corner, insisted afterwards that Chelsea had dominated the first 20 to 25 minutes, which hardly looked the case from the stand — but then, that is the deluded way of non-playing managers too.

When Vialli was appointed, he was spitefully disparaged by Fabio Capello, the coach of AC Milan's present, ailing team. To Capello, Vialli's appointment was absurd — yet not long ago was he not defending Vialli and attacking Gullit, with whom he fell out in Milan, for leaving Vialli on the bench out of supposed jealousy?

Vialli had every right to answer that, for all Capello's past successes — including the Italian championship with Milan and the Spanish title last season with Real Madrid — he has lost his way embarrassingly this season, even if Milan did beat Lazio 1-0 this week in the first leg of the Italian Cup final.

Humiliated in recent League games by both Internazionale, their Milanese rivals, and Juventus, they had salt rubbed into their wounds by the way that Edgar Davids shone against them. Only last December, Capello had sold the young Dutchman to Juventus after an unhappy spell with Milan. By way of unconvincing excuse, Capello alleged that Milan's own physiotherapists had had to repair the damage done to Davids's broken leg by their Dutch *counterparts and that Louis van Gaal*, the player's former coach at Ajax, had refused at the eleventh hour to take him for Barcelona. More fool Barcelona, you may think. Moreover, whereas Capello's relations with his players have been tense, Vialli's are almost ideal.

In Italy, as in Germany, managers and coaches must pass a demanding course before they are allowed to run leading clubs. Indeed, the Germans insist on theirs gaining experience in the lower leagues.

Serie A is full of those who did little as players then came up through the ranks as coaches. Thus Alberto Malesani, in his first, impressive season at Fiorentina after a rewarding spell in Serie B at modest Chievo, has decided to move on to Bologna. Arrigo Sacchi, who may succeed him, began by coaching his local amateur club and went on through junior football, ultimately to run Milan and Italy.

In England, Dave Jones is having a fine first season at Southampton, refuting those who doubted him when he arrived from Stockport County.

Yet when the West Germany *national team* was faltering, the Germans ignored all their elaborate managerial criteria and appointed Franz Beckenbauer, their former famous captain, who had never coached at any level. He responded by taking them to two consecutive World Cup finals, winning in 1990.

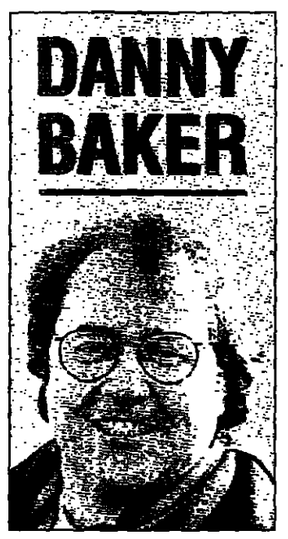
The existence of player-managers in English football is more surprising, given that so much is expected of our managers by comparison with the continentals, who are confined to coaching and dealing with the media and are largely kept out of the transfer market.

In his first years at Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish did achieve great things as player-manager, though he had an exceptional club and a solid administration behind him. Generalisation is dangerous. Managers, even Dalglish, not to mention Capello, tend to have their ups and downs, whether or not they are still playing, but, on the face of it, there is a strong case for a division of labour.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Making a monkey out of another fixture crisis

DANNY BAKER



A few years back, I was offered the kind of television programme that most presenters can only dream of. It was a gameshow called *Hoodwink* and was to be made by Scottish Television. Though its regular rounds were ingenious and thoroughly gripping, it was the climax to each show that would have seen the streets of Britain deserted every Thursday and made the interest in Deirdre's imprisonment seem like a lot of fuss about nothing. As succinctly as I can put it, what would happen was this:

You would arrive in the final with £5,000 in crisp fifties. Here, you would sit across a table from a chimpanzee dressed in a cravat, smoking jacket and a matching tassled hat. There would be two sets of levers. One set of three before you and another identical set before the chimp. The host — and it still hurts to reflect that this would have been me — would then ask five extremely difficult questions. Your response would be judged by which of the three levers you pulled. The chimp would have a go, too.

So if, when faced with the poser "Which Egyptian god was brother to Nut and worshipped as the personification of The Land?", you had, in blind panic, pulled lever three (Answer: Khnum) while the chimp had cheerfully tugged lever one (Answer: Geb), the chimp would have been seen to be cleverer than you and the fun could start.

For every time the ape took your intellectual pants down, it would be specially-trained to climb across to your half of the desk, take away £1,000 of the fifties and return to its seat, where it would unscrew the top of a sweetie jar and pop the swag inside. As soon as I read the programme's outline, I knew that here was just the sort of thing Logie-Baird had in mind when he legged it down to the patent office.

The sets were built, contestants screened, budgets generously allotted when a spanner went into the works. A group of animal rights activists — I'm not sure which ones — had got a whiff of a pilot script and began harrassing STV HQ with the clear and immovable brief that nobody was going to make a monkey out of the primates.

At first, it seemed as if they might be placated. They were shown around the purpose-built chimp dressing-rooms in Glasgow, where three walls had been knocked through to create a soothing, straw-strewn haven complete with two suspended tyres. They met with the chimp's handlers — a fiercely protective couple — who had come up with the idea of having four "Professors", for that was to be the name of our cash-grabbing star, so as not to exhaust any one performer with something like a three-hour day. They even watched humans go through the chimp's prospective movements to assuage fears that the physical risks in pulling levers, standing on tables and putting £50 into sweetie jars were on a par with a Roman amphitheatre.

For a while, it seemed as though *Hoodwink* might get green-lighted. Then, during a fatal delay while we waited for our main chimp to clear through quarantine (it had been in Africa shooting *Gorillas In The Mist* inside an actual gorilla suit ... I am not making this up) the activists found out about a drama featuring a lion that STV were also producing and threw a blanket "No" upon the whole circus.

Hoodwink got shelved and I was offered the safer, but less rewarding series of *Win Lose or Draw*. I took it and helmed the vehicle for three years, but I never shook off the feeling that I had been a starving dog given a rubber bone.

I thought I was over my outrage and depression at the meddling nannying that sank *Hoodwink* until I looked over the fixture list for this Easter. Now, correct me if I'm wrong (you usually do), but wasn't it tradition up until about two minutes ago that, over Easter weekend, clubs played something like four times in five days? That no matter how much we envied their swanning around the rest of the year, at Easter they had to exert themselves like galley slaves?

That was the beauty part. No matter how impressive you had been all season, unless you could tough out the assault course that was heralded by the hot-cross bun you basically knew nothing. I remember marvelling at the part of the programme that revealed:

Apr 10: Wrexham (a)
Apr 11: Wrexham (h)
Apr 13: Reading (h)
Apr 15 (am): Plymouth (a)
Apr 15 (pm): Carlisle (a)

and, blow me, I think they played on the seventeenth, too. You might start the bank holiday in a stronger position than Notts County, but, by the time NatWest opened for business again, you needed 30 points from your last six games just to avoid the drop.

Today, however, I note that some clubs — take a wild guess — are playing but twice with a full couple of days off in between. And that's the Easter pile-up is it? Out of the 96 hours available for work they'll be at it for just three. Bitching all the way, too, you can bet your life.

Last Easter, I instigated a phone-in to find the person in Britain who has played the most football in the shortest space of time. There were at least 20 calls with corroborative stories where three matches were completed with just short-journey time breaking them up and a couple more boasting four matches spread right across the daylight hours. True, it might be argued that these events may not have featured the highest standards of soccer competition but, as anyone who watched Blackburn v Man United on Monday knows, neither does much of the Premiership.

Then we come to Mick Gosbee. Who is Mick Gosbee? Well, Mick Gosbee — and I don't even know if that's how this hero spells his name — was the only person to respond to the staggering query: Has anyone ever played two games simultaneously? "Yes," Gosbee said, "I have."

It seems Mick was the Paul Ince of his Sunday side, who play in Berkshire. One week, both his outfits' A and B sides were scheduled to play on adjoining pitches, with the B team able to field just eight players. I won't labour you with the delicate political discussions that had to be entered into, but suffice to say that Mick was allowed to be named in both squads and, so long as he entered either game during a dead-ball moment, was considered the legitimate No 8 for two of the competing teams. How did he apportion his time?

"I didn't," Mick told me. "I was constantly being called for and ran around like a blue-arsed fly, an attack here, in a wall there, clearing here and being booked there." Both teams lost and some may therefore consider his enterprise a failure. I do not. His efforts hint at what we might be, of speeches that begin "Nation Awake!" that football might be a pleasure and not a pain.

In France, they would dedicate parks to this magnificent man. Here, he languishes in the shadows while professional footballers are fed metaphorical peeled grapes on silk cushions.

❑ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday at 11.30am and 5.30pm.

I'll name that team in . . .

EVERYONE knows the shortest name in the league belongs to Bury. Now a search is on for Britain's longest team name. The present front-runners are The Greek Cypriot Brotherhood of Cardiff. All other candidates gratefully accepted.

FACT: Charlton's Andy Gray's real name is Kermit.



Merson missed a number of scoring chances in the midweek match at Bramall Lane, including one from the penalty spot

Merson's miss gets stamp of approval

What about Paul Merson's penalty in midweek! How lousy was that? Only a thumped own goal or tripped referee cheers up a match like the kind of blousey, scatterbrained strike Merson launched from 12 yards at Bramall Lane. Talk about mis-hit! When a penalty is that far wide, a sort of grandeur creeps in and usually it is polite to pretend to admire what the player was trying to do. The difference in this case is that nobody can actually work out what he was trying to do.

The trick is, they say, to either place it or blast it. Merson attempted both, but, critically, the place he blasted for was his own front door in Middlesbrough. Still, he shouldn't feel bad about it. Within actual 90-minute matches, I've never thought penalties should be taken seriously. Oh, they count and can be crucial, but there's always something fraudulent about them. Even today, football results highlight them, in case readers think the match was settled fair and square:

Bury (0) 1 Chelsea (0) 1
Nixon 75 Vialli 80 (pen)

They are pure froth, crackpot wildcards tagged on to the rules like "Get out of jail free" cards in Monopoly. That they are treated these days like sombre rituals, complete with "bravery" and "nerve", makes me laugh like a loon. Anyone who's ever played the game before the age of 12 has heard the ear-splitting chorus of "Let's take it!" when a penalty is awarded. Quite when this exuberance is replaced by a dread sense of responsibility remains muddy. Then again, it has been a few years since I was 12 and it may be that youngsters now consider the penalty taker as the doomed, courageous tail-gunner in a team. This, though, is backed up by reports from a recent junior match in Milton Keynes, where the penalty shoot-out required 32 attempts before a scoreline of 2-1 was arrived at.

If this is typical of our future national strike-rate from the spot, we may as well just give the 2006 World Cup to some ten-year-old in Frankfurt right now and save the nation more shame. As for Merson's bloomer, I shall start a campaign immediately to have the entire sequence issued on commemorative stamps that, when flicked through swiftly, will show the miss in all its insane glory.

Sound advice for refs

A few weeks back, I wrote about a non-league referee who had his red and yellow cards stolen and was reduced to cutting up Weetabix and cornflakes boxes to improvise. This led me to ponder the practicality of his commandeering an Edam cheese for matches or, if finances were tight, a rhubarb and custard boiled sweet.

Now, of course, reality has bested our pixieish ruminating. Mark Tesler is a referee and was recently in charge of a game in Wiltshire in a field that backed on to a pub. When he arrived, he was horrified to discover that he had left his whistle and the spare at his home nearly 30 miles away and, furthermore, had to confess to the already stripped teams and their supporters that physical whistling was a gift denied him.

No whistle of any sort could be rustled up and the only item that might possibly substitute was deemed to be a dog's squeaky rubber toy in the shape of a lamb chop. After several minutes of energetically pumping on the "chop", Mr Tesler admitted defeat and, once again, went into the pub to appeal for anything that might conceivably allow the match to be refereed efficiently. He emerged after a few minutes, a wooden spoon in one hand and a square tin tray in the other — game on!

The cat's out the bag now, David



Regular readers will know that nothing perks up appreciation of the great game, and I suppose this column, more than the realization that certain football celebrities have lookalikes in those even more famous. We recall David Pleat as Mr Punch; Iain Dowie as the computer game hero, Earthworm Jim; David Platt as the eponymous Glenryk Pilchard from the famous tin. This week, while tidying my son's shelves, I notice that, from beneath the red and white stretch-topper of Dr Seuss' Cat In the Hat, left, beam the unmistakable features of Tottenham's David Howells, right.



ACTUAL exchange between Alan Parry and Colin Todd after Bolton's 0-0 draw with Wimbledon last week:

Parry: Do you look at this as a point gained or two points dropped?
Todd: Certainly a point not gained.
Parry: I see.

David Powell joins the nation's hardiest football supporters

Hop to it, you're on the most novel Easter parade in town

It is one of the oldest jokes about poorly-supported football clubs. "What time is the kick-off?" the inquiry goes. "What time can you get here?" comes the reply. In the Westward Developments Devon League, this Easter, the joke is reality.

"The league is breaking its own rules about kick-offs being at three o'clock," Phil Hiscox, the league secretary, said. It is even insisting that kick-offs are delayed until the supporters turn up. Very special supporters, though.

The groundhoppers are non-League devotees who are more interested in where they are watching a game than the standard of it. After five years on the Northern Hop, exhausting new grounds in the north-east, fresh territory is being explored in Devon.

The hoppers are packing seven matches into 34 hours, three yesterday, four today. About 300 hoppers began in awful weather at Topsham Town yesterday morning and will finish at Plymouth Parkway this evening. Well, most of them. Gerry Shepherd will not be finished.

Shepherd is 65, played local football for 45 years and will be visiting his thousandth ground when he walks through the turnstile . . . er, gap . . . at Plymouth Parkway. Before returning home to Wimbledon, he has two more matches planned for tomorrow. And Monday? "A little wind-down at Dawlish." Shepherd said. An easy day for the man on his seventh Easter Hop, a 100 per cent appearance record.

So grateful is the Devon League to the likes of Shepherd that, in the event of traffic delays between matches, kick-off is delayed. It happened last year, when tractors on the road from Teignmouth to Newton Abbot got in the way.

Yesterday, it might have been snowploughs. Looking out from the Topsham clubhouse, away to the left, past the home goalkeeper, one could see snow on the hills. Seeing a Topsham goalkeeper at all was fortunate. The match, Topsham versus Budleigh Salterton, should not have been played. Groundhoppers made it happen.

Sue Bulled, the Topsham secretary, was exerting influence. The club was expecting eight times their average gate of 80. "This game is going ahead, come



hell or high water," Bulled said, 30 minutes before kick-off. "The revenue is so important for next season."

Topsham would have been counting their takings into the night from record programme sales, gate money, bar, raffle and refreshment income and, if Topsham win the league and there is a spare medal, it should go to John Webber, their groundsman, 74.

An amateur he may be, but his dedication bears the mark of a professional. Webber had marked out the pitch on Thursday, but an overnight deluge meant that he had to start again just after 7am yesterday. "If it was not for the groundhoppers coming," he said, "I would have said: 'No chance.'"

Never mind that Paul Harris, the referee, thought that the pitch was "iffy". It had been critical for Topsham not to fall another game behind. Now, after a 1-0 win, their first championship looks within reach. Win five of their seven matches in hand and they will be up with the leaders.

So concerned had Hiscox been that matches would be called off that he had provisionally arranged alternative entertainment: skittles, a quiz and seats at Budleigh Salterton for Manchester United versus Liverpool. "That was plan Z," Hiscox said, relieved.

The Devon League is the newest in the football pyramid, only six years old. The groundhoppers were visiting for the second time and their presence, together with the appeal of the top versus second place clash yesterday, Cullompton at home to Willand Rovers, ensured a league record crowd of 693. Average gate at Speeds Meadow: 80.

The groundhoppers come with various rituals. One insists on touching both crossbars, another on photographing the corner flags. Three St Albans City supporters, with their team not playing, had chosen the Devon Hop. "In the Ryman League, we do not go very far, just around the M25," Mark James, one of them, said.

Cullompton and Willand drew 1-1, but Trevor Atkins, the Topsham manager, was not there. Was it not an ideal chance to run the rule over Willand before they go there on Wednesday? "Normally I would, but I am absolutely frozen," Atkins said. "I am going to put my feet up by the fire." The groundhoppers must have thought him mad.

TOP GATEWAY SYSTEM WITH FREE SOUNDCARD AND SPEAKERS. UNHEARD OF VALUE.

TAKE THE PROFESSIONAL G6-266 SYSTEM

FRESH TECHNOLOGY



FRESH THINKING

ADD A FREE ENSONIQ PCI SOUNDCARD AND FREE BOSTON ACOUSTICS MICROMEDIA SPEAKERS

AND IT'S YOURS FOR AN INCREDIBLE £1199 (ex. VAT & Delivery)

FRESH PRICE

At Gateway 2000 we don't just make great computers. Thanks to our unique way of doing business, we can put together lots of fantastic deals like the one shown here. To find out more about this offer or the other packages we can build for you, call 0800 74 2000 today.

G6-266

- Intel 266MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 64MB SDRAM
- 6.4GB Hard Drive
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 13X min/32X max 90ms CD-ROM
- STB® AGP 3D Graphics Accelerator, w/ 4MB DRAM
- 17" EV700 Monitor†
- ATX Tower Case
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 105 Keyboard
- MS® Windows 95, MS IntelliMouse®
- McAfee Anti-Virus Software
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition plus Encarta® 97 (US Version) and MS Money 97
- Ensoniq® Wavetable 32-Bit PCI Sound Card
- Boston Acoustics® Micromedia® 5W Speakers with 15W Subwoofer

£1199 (£1442.90 inc. VAT & Delivery)

Easter Opening Hours
Easter Saturday 8am - 6pm
Closed Easter Sunday and Easter Monday

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."®

0800 74 2000

http://www.gateway2000.co.uk

©1998 Gateway 2000 Europe. Black-and-white spot design, "G" logo, "You've got a friend in the business," slogan, GATEWAY and GATEWAY 2000 are trademarks or registered trademarks of Gateway 2000 Inc. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices quoted in Sterling. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions and limited warranty. †Industry standard practice is to measure monitors using the CRT size. Actual viewing area can be approx. 12" less.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

ARSENAL v NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt

They glimpsed the summit once before Manchester United awoke from their slumbers and today Arsenal must begin the ascent again. They may have built up a comforting cushion of four games in hand over the champions, but this afternoon at Highbury they must start winning them.

Less than a week after both these teams eased past Nationwide League opposition to make their way through to the FA Cup Final, this promises to be quite a rehearsal, a game that, in many ways, may have more riding on it than the Wembley meeting itself.

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, who has had some of the pressure lifted off him by taking his team to an occasion that Kevin Keegan never reached in his days in charge, has acknowledged that today's meeting will be the first of "a series of cup finals" for the club as they try to drag themselves clear of the relegation struggle.

One of the many heartening things for Dalglish about last Sunday's victory over Sheffield United was the performance of Alan Shearer. Shearer showed signs that he is returning to his best after his long injury lay-off and, if Andersson can start converting some chances, the attacking potency that Newcastle have lacked for so long could return in North London.

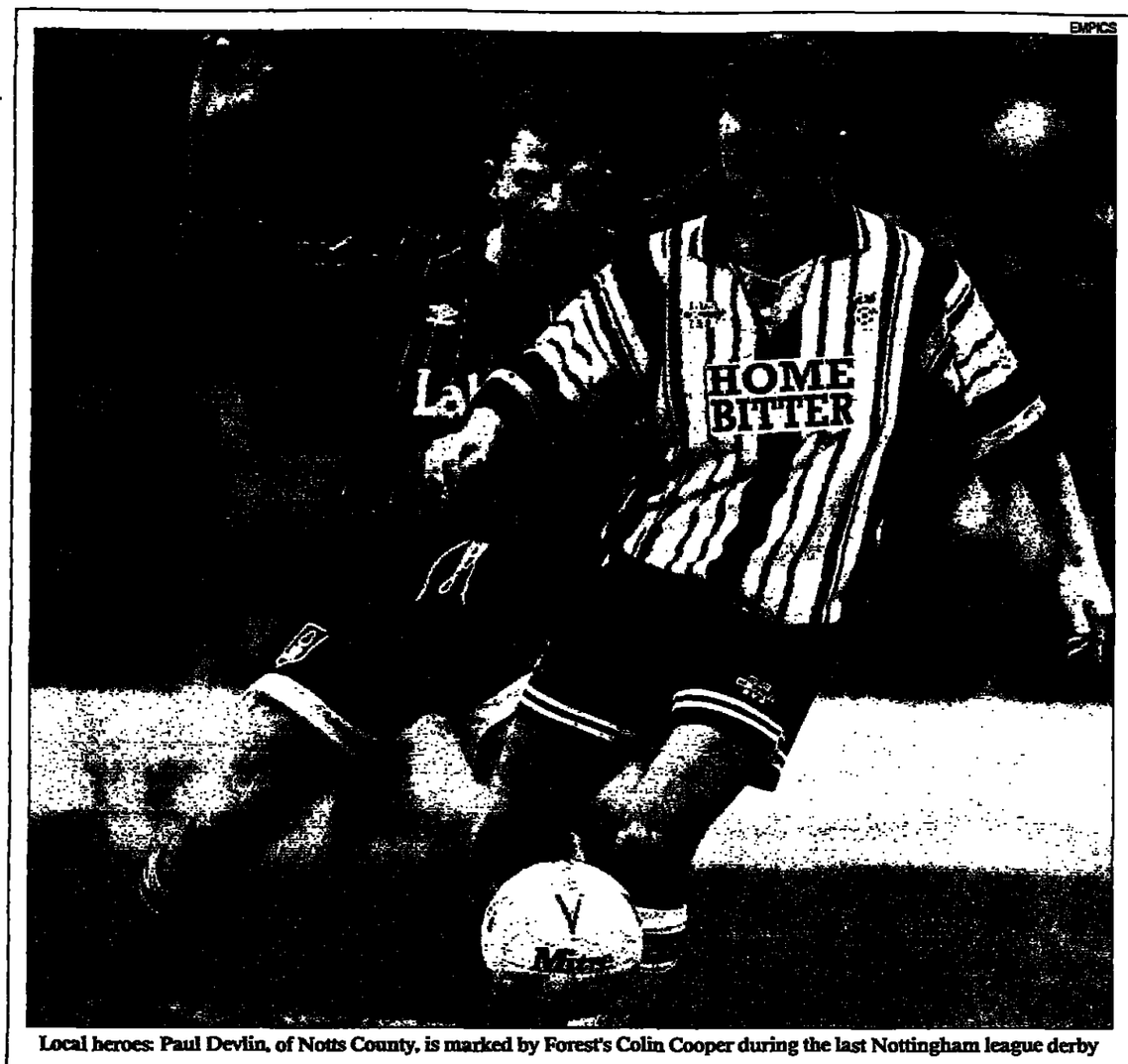
Of course, Arsenal are in the midst of a formidable run, carrying all before them and still on target for the Double. Their momentum shows few signs of slowing down and they will be attempting to keep a club record ninth successive clean sheet — but they will have to be at their best against a Newcastle side that will view a point as a victory.

They are still without Dennis Bergkamp, who will serve the last game of his three-match suspension for his sending-off at West Ham United, and Ian Wright appears to be as far away from making a comeback as ever after his protracted injury problems. Martin Keown is missing with an eye injury and Lee Dixon is also out. To complicate matters further, Gilles Grimandi, Dixon's natural replacement, is given only a 50-50 chance of playing.

Yet Arsenal have shrugged off their absences before and Christopher Wreh, in particular, has proved that he is an able substitute up front. The game may contain pointers towards the Cup Final, but the real significance of this match will be the effect that it has on the league.

ARSENAL (probable; 4-4-2): D Seaman — G Grimandi, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — C Wreh, N Anelka.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): S Given — W Barton, D Peacock, S Pearce, A Pistone — K Gillespie, N Dabizas, G Speed, T Ketsbaia — A Andersson, A Shearer.
Referee: G Willard.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.35pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.



EMPICS

Local heroes: Paul Devlin, of Notts County, is marked by Forest's Colin Cooper during the last Nottingham league derby

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

NEIGHBOURLY GESTURES

It's derby day today at Barnsley, Bolton, Chelsea and Coventry. Some great rivalries, though, seem to have taken a permanent break from the fixture list

1. Nottingham Forest v Notts Co
It may be the oldest derby in the world, but the Notts have not been tied since February 1994 when Gary McSwegan and Charlie Palmer chopped down Forest
2. Blackburn Rovers v Burnley
They still voice their dislike for each other every week, but Rovers have held boasting rights since a 2-1 win in April 1983
3. Portsmouth v Southampton
Barry Horne and Terry Connor gave Pompey a 2-0 win at The Dell in January 1988, and Saints still await league revenge
4. Brighton v C Palace
Bright end Wright put the Seagulls to flight in March 1989
5. Barnet v Enfield
Enfield's relegation from the Conference, followed speedily by Barnet's elevation to the League in 1991, put paid to the other North London derby
6. Bradford City v Leeds United
A 1-1 draw at Elland Road in April 1990 was the last league Tykeaway
7. Chelsea v Fulham
Dixon, Speedie and Nevin sent the neighbours scurrying back down the Fulham Road in April 1984
8. Aston Villa v Birmingham City
Two Garry Thompson goals gave City the blues in December 1987 and the second-city rivals have not met in a league match since
9. Carlisle Utd v Workington
They met twice over Christmas 1964, but then went their separate ways forever
10. Grimsby Town v Hull City
No fishing jokes since a 2-2 draw at Blundell Park in May 1987
11. Inverness Caley v Inverness Thistle
One sure way to avoid those ugly derby meetings is to merge — so these two did

Compiled by Richard Whitehead
Thanks to Bill Edgar

CHELSEA v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0



Keith Pike

The fatalistic among them would question the wisdom of their team even bothering to turn up at Stamford Bridge this afternoon; the cynical might say that failure to do so would complete a rare double this troublesome season. Tottenham Hotspur having gone missing — embarrassingly so — during a 6-1 hiding at White Hart Lane in December.

Either way, this is the fixture that Tottenham supporters have come to dread, and at a time when their club is in considerable peril.

How long since Tottenham last got the better of Chelsea? Well, John Bumstead scored the Blues' goal that day (which immediately adds something of a sepia tone to the occasion), and Tottenham won thanks to a last-minute strike by Gary Lineker. You have to go back 17 matches — spanning eight years and, between the clubs, 11 managers — to find Tottenham's last triumph.

But if history is against them, other considerations are in Tottenham's favour. There is the fact that Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, having made 12 unenforced changes in his last two FA Carling Premiership selections, will probably make another half a dozen today.

He is likely to field a team as close as possible to the one that will face Vicenza in the second leg of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final next week, where most eyes are already clearly fixed.

"We want to win on Saturday, but we *need* to win next Thursday," a spokesman said this week, confirming the priorities of the only Premiership club with nothing to play for in the closing stages of the league season.

Unbeaten in three games, playing with commendable spirit and with two forwards, Klinsmann and Armstrong, having rediscovered their scoring touch — and a third, Ferdinand, fit for consideration after playing in two reserve games during the past week after a lengthy spell out with injuries — Tottenham have no such distractions. Darren Anderton is also close to a return. Victory may not be beyond them.

CHELSEA (possible, 4-4-2): E de Goey — A Myers, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, E Newton, D Wise, R di Matteo — G Zola, G Vialli.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (possible, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, S Clemence — R Fox, N Berti, A Nielsen, D Ginola — J Klinsmann, C Armstrong.
Referee: P Durkin

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.



Rob Hughes

The maxim that the team and supporters are in this together might have been meant for Oakwell, where Barnsley's hopes of avoiding relegation depend on players staying on the pitch and hooligans staying off it. Barnsley face Sheffield Wednesday today without Morgan, Barnard and Sheridan — sent off in their last home match, against Liverpool — and desperate for good crowd behaviour after some so-called supporters attempted to assault Gary Willard, the referee on that occasion.

Indeed, Barnsley may have more to fear from their own kind than from their Yorkshire neighbours, whose away form is ordinary. Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, and Neil Redfearn, the captain, deserve better than having people around them losing their heads.

Barnsley must win four of their last six games to stay in the FA Carling Premiership. They must turn back the recent cycle of three victories followed by three defeats and concentrate to the end to prevent Paolo di Canio repeating his late winning goal at Hillsborough in December.

The good news? Paul Alcock, the referee today, is far more inclined to keep his red cards in his pocket than Willard.

BARNSLEY (probable; 3-5-2): D Watson — A Moses, A de Zeeuw, M Appleby — N Eaden, N Redfearn, M Bullock, J Bosancic, S Jones — A Ward, G Hristov.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable; 4-4-2): K Pressman — E Barrett, G Sedloski, D Walker, A Hinchcliffe — B Carbone, J Magilton, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge — A Booth, P di Canio.
Referee: P Alcock.

BARNSLEY v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Barnsley fervour to eke out the points.



Richard Hobson

After a strong first half to the season, Blackburn Rovers are unlikely to slip out of the top six now, if only because of the inconsistencies of those sides below them. Roy Hodgson, the urbane manager, is confident a Uefa Cup place remains in sight and has plotted a scouting trek through the World Cup that would exhaust the hardiest backpacker as he seeks to reinforce the squad.

Likewise, Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, is convinced that his side will become a force at this level — but there is a big proviso. They have to escape relegation first.

Crystal Palace are the one side with fewer goals and Dean Holdsworth, who was signed from Wimbledon this season, has not become the prolific partner for Nathan Blake that Todd anticipated. If that is not enough of a problem, then two established defenders, Gudni Bergsson and Jimmy Phillips, are suspended. Chris Fairclough and either Greg Strong or Hasney Aliofrer will slot in.

Blackburn, with two wins in eight matches, have shipped 18 goals in their past seven despite the presence of the monumental Colin Hendry to marshal the back four. He has recovered from a head injury suffered against Manchester United on Monday.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable; 3-5-2): K Branagan — A Todd, M Fish, C Fairclough — N Cox, P Frandsen, J Sheridan, A Thompson, G Strong — D Holdsworth, N Blake.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable; 4-4-2): A Fettis — J Kenna, S Hanchoz, C Hendry, J Wilcox — G Flitcroft, T Sherwood, W McGinlay, D Duff — C Sutton, K Gallacher.
Referee: M Riley.

BOLTON WANDERERS v BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Blackburn win.



Russell Kempson

Another gentle, parochial get-together of Midlands neighbours? Another meaningless, end-of-season fixture with neither side in contention for honours? Not today. Coventry City and Aston Villa have whiffed the scent of a Uefa Cup place and will engage in close-quarters combat in front of a 23,000 sell-out crowd at Highfield Road.

Picking a winner is tricky. Coventry are unbeaten in 13 matches, if one discounts the penalty shoot-out defeat against Sheffield United in their FA Cup quarter-final replay, and Villa have won five of their six FA Carling Premiership games since John Gregory rode in on his white charger to replace Brian Little as manager.

Confirmation of Coventry's new respectable image — no relegation battle this year — came in the club having two tables at the Professional Footballers' Association dinner in London last weekend. "We usually have one table," Gordon Strachan, the manager, said, "with a couple of chairs around it."

Darren Huckerby, the Coventry flyer, should play, having overcome a groin strain, but Stan Collymore is likely to be absent again with a similar ailment. Such is Villa's new-found confidence, he has been barely missed.

COVENTRY CITY (probable; 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt, N Whelan — D Dublin, D Huckerby.
ASTON VILLA (probable; 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, L Hendrie, A Wright — J Joachim, D Yorke.
Referee: D Gallagher.

COVENTRY CITY v ASTON VILLA
Today, 3.0

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: All-action draw.



Matt Dickinson

Crystal Palace seem determined not to depart the FA Carling Premiership without leaving some mark in the record books and their failure to win a league game at home this season is a remarkable feat.

There appears to be no reason why they should not retain that claim to fame when they entertain Leicester City today, despite the lack of incentive for the visitors, who are free of relegation fears but also way off the pace for European qualification.

Terry Venables, the former England coach, is all but signed and sealed to take over at Selhurst Park in the summer, we are told, and the squad he may be taking over is not without its merits. In Matt Jansen, pinched from Carlisle United from under the noses of Manchester United, they have a young forward willing to run at defences. In his one game for Palace — the loss to Tottenham Hotspur a fortnight ago — Sasa Curcic confirmed that he is a player of wonderful talents. Just a shame about his temperament.

The shambles off the field, however, with no one appearing to know who owns or manages the club, has been reflected in the defensive organisation and it will take a coach of Venables's abilities to try to find some semblance of order.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable; 4-4-2): K Miller — M Edworthy, V Ismael, H Hreidarsson, B Dyer — A Lombardo, J Smith, T Brolin, S Curcic — N Shipperley, M Jansen
LEICESTER CITY (probable; 3-5-2): K Keller — P Kaamark, M Elliott, S Prior — R Savage, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker, S Guppy — G Fenton, E Heskey
Referee: A Wilkie

CRYSTAL PALACE v LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.



EVERTON v LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0



David Maddock

It seems to be an increasing possibility that one of the "Big Five" of the FA Carling Premiership will fall through the relegation trapdoor, and Everton are beginning to look more likely candidates than Tottenham Hotspur. Everton are still three points above the bottom three, but have won only one of their past six games. With Bolton Wanderers and Barnsley showing signs of recovery, the threat is very real.

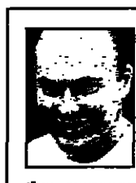
Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, has been attempting to instil some nerve into his side this week and has even turned to a sports psychologist to promote positive thought. The main problem seems to be in front of goal. Duncan Ferguson is the club's top scorer this season with nine goals, even though he has missed half of the campaign through injury and suspension. Ferguson is doubtful for the match against Leeds United today, although Kendall is likely to risk him.

Leeds have forced their way into the European reckoning with a fine run of five wins in six matches and, in Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, they have the most improved player in the Premiership. The striker is an outside bet for a World Cup place with Holland, although such a prospect would not please George Graham. "I haven't heard anything and I hope that I don't. I've had enough problems with internationals already," the Leeds manager said.

Leeds are likely to field the side that dismissed an understrength Chelsea in midweek, although Rod Wallace is fit again and could figure at some stage. Kendall has Bilic and Tiler back after suspension, but the front line gives him most cause for concern and he may use the pace of Cadamarteri in an attempt to find a goal from somewhere.

EVERTON (probable; 5-3-2): T Myhre — J O'Kane, S Bilic, D Watson, C Tiler, M Bell — N Barmby, D Hutchison, J Oster — D Ferguson, M Made
LEEDS UNITED (probable; 5-3-2): N Martyn — G Kelly, D Wetherall, R Molenaar, M Hiden, I Harte — G Halle, L Radebe, L Bowyer — J F Hasselbaink, H Kewell
Referee: U Rennie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Everton in further trouble by losing.



Peter Robinson

Joe Kinnear marched off the field at Selhurst Park last week deep in conversation with Colin Todd, the respective managers of Wimbledon and Bolton Wanderers complaining about the tribulations of life at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. A draw was not the result that either man was looking for.

Be honest, though. Who *really* believes that Wimbledon are going to get relegated? They struggle on; year after year, against what they call intolerable odds, tiny crowds, no money, injuries, everybody hating them — if you have heard Kinnear once this season, then you have heard him a thousand times, repeating the same old lament — and still they stay up.

Yes, they are in a scrap for survival, but this is Wimbledon, for heaven's sake, they like scraps. Anyway, any club that can spend £1.75 million on a player, as this one recently did on Mark Kennedy, from Liverpool, is not that badly off. It is a pity he has not played yet, but that may be put right over the Easter period.

Kennedy has had a hand injury, a pulled tendon in a finger, which, strictly speaking, should keep him out for another fortnight, but the Ireland winger believes he could get a game rather sooner than that. "I have a splint on my hand which I would not be allowed to play in," he said yesterday. "I'm not supposed to take it off for another two weeks. I have still stitches keeping my tendon together, but I am pushing to play myself over the Easter holiday weekend. My chances of making it are 50-50." But not today, perhaps.

Southampton are in mid-table, a luxury for them that speaks volumes for the abilities of David Jones, their manager. He shares the traditional suspicion of Matthew Le Tissier, The Dell's resident enigma, but Le Tissier is suspended today, so there will no repeat of those hangdog, miserable Mattie stories that have been so popular of late. Carlton Palmer is back after a one-match ban, Kevin Davies could take Le Tissier's place, but much will depend on whether Southampton can match the determination that is Wimbledon's trademark.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable, 4-3-3): P Jones — J Dodd, R Dryden, C Lundekvam, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson, J Beresford — K Davies, E Ostenstad, D Hirst.
WIMBLEDON (probable; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, A Kimble — M Hughes, R Earle, A Roberts, N Ardley — J Euell, C Leaburn.
Referee: M Reed.

SOUTHAMPTON v WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.



Brian Glanville

Harry Redknapp and Eyal Berkovic are friends again, apparently. On West Ham United's last appearance, when they lost away to Aston Villa 2-0 in what Redknapp, the manager, deemed a poor match, Berkovic was a surprising omission. Fiery declarations were attributed to the midfield player in the Israeli press, which quoted him as saying he would leave West Ham and that he was sure there was a hidden agenda.

For his part, Redknapp said: "Berkovic is a tremendous player, but you have to pick teams to try to win games and we need squad players we can shuffle around."

With Berkovic back, West Ham are much less likely to shuffle around than they were at Villa Park and more bullets should be made for the likes of John Hartson, Trevor Sinclair, and, if he plays, Samassi Abou to fire.

The excellent Bernard Lama, still hoping for a place in the France World Cup squad and certainly more worthy of one than the most recent incumbent, will continue in goal, in preference to Craig Forrest. Ludek Miklosko, the third of the front-line goalkeepers at Upton Park, is still injured, as are Tim Breacker, the full back, and Paul Kitson, the striker, who has still to recover from a groin strain.

Derby County, who lost at home last time out to a patchwork Chelsea, have Stefano Eranio back from the injured hamstring that kept him out for two games. He will patrol the right flank, doubtless linking with his lively compatriot, Francesco Baiano, who, in turn, will be partnered by the lanky, ever-unpredictable, Paulo Wanchope, the Costa Rica international, who represents a continuing triumph of mind over matter.

Igor Stimac, the resilient Croat, who must surely be recalled to his country's World Cup squad, is back in defence after suspension, replacing Jacob Laursen, the Dane.

Who will play in goal? Mart Poom, the Estonia international, has suffered an uneasy run and lost his place to Russell Hoult for the past two games, sitting on the bench for the second. He may be restored at Upton Park.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable; 3-5-2): B Lama — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — S Potts, E Berkovic, F Lampard, S Lomas, S Lazaridis — T Sinclair, J Hartson
DERBY COUNTY (probable, 4-3-1-2): R Hoult — R Delap, G Rowett, I Stimac, C Powell — S Eranio, L Carsley, L Bohinen — F Baiano — P Wanchope, D Sturridge.
Referee: G Barber.

WEST HAM UNITED v DERBY COUNTY
Today, 3.0

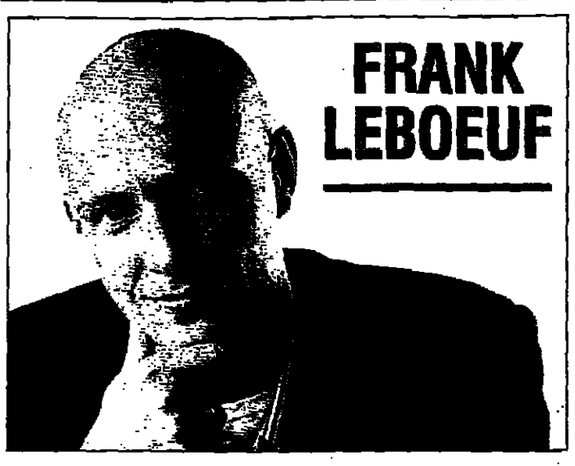
■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A draw.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Ferdinand presents case for defence in football awards



FRANK LEBOEUF

It is the time of year for awards, with *Dennis Bergkamp* winning the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year and Michael Owen the young player. Both are worthy victors who have had wonderful seasons, but they did not figure on my voting slip.

Even though he is only 19, my choice for player of the year was Rio Ferdinand, the West Ham United and England centre half, who I believe has a hugely successful career ahead of him. There is maybe a bit of bias in choosing another defender, but it does annoy me that it always seems to be strikers who are recognised. In the past 20 years, only Paul McGrath and Gary Pallister have broken up a succession of forwards. Maybe it is time to set up a defenders' trade union.

There are similarities between young Rio and myself. I like to think both of us try to use the ball wherever possible and only whack it away in desperate circumstances. We are both more natural sweepers than central defenders.

Rio probably has an advantage over me when it comes to dealing with big, physical players like Duncan Ferguson. Everyone knows that I am not at my most comfortable when there is a great hulking centre forward trying to knock me around all over the place. It is a legacy of learning my football in France, where there are very few forwards in that mould. I was generally a sweeper, so did not have too many of those one-to-one confrontations with raging-bull strikers.

Being brought up in England, Rio will have been used to that style and I think he can cope well in most situations. He is still young so, obviously, he has plenty to learn, but I would be very surprised if Glenn Hoddle did not already regard him as a regular squad member with real potential.

I did vote for a striker for the young player of the year award, but it was not Owen. I went for Darren Huckerby, of Coventry City, who has a wonderful range of skills. Maybe he is not the most consistent, but on his day he can show great technique. I shall be watching his career with interest.

■ ***Graham misses point***

I must not let this column pass without responding to George Graham. After our 3-1 defeat at Elland Road on Wednesday night, the Leeds United manager had a little dig at our club by claiming that Gianluca Vialli was simply changing the team around because it is "fashionable". Mr Graham should look at the facts before he shoots his mouth off.

The reality — and I would have thought it would be obvious to a man of Graham's experience — is that we have been playing games every three days for as long as I can remember. I was one of the players left out on Wednesday and I had no objections because I needed a rest.

The other reason for changes, and again it seems to be stating the obvious, is that we have already qualified for Europe by winning the Coca-Cola Cup. Having slipped down the league, our main priority is to win the Cup Winners' Cup, so the manager is quite right to prepare the players as best possible for next week's semi-final second leg at home to Vicenza.

None of this means that we have given up in the FA Carling Premiership. Of course, whoever is selected will give their best until the end of the season, because we want to prove that we are a strong club, but Luca can hardly be blamed for doing what is best for Chelsea and he certainly does not deserve criticism from someone like George Graham. Maybe if his team had been in a cup final and a European semi-final, he would have a little more understanding.

■ **Fortune favours United**

It is a huge disappointment that we are no longer contenders for the championship. Inconsistency has been our undoing, because I think we have shown that, on our day, we can be as impressive as anyone. There have also been those days we would prefer to forget and I think all the players are aware that until they eradicate those sudden losses of form, we will let slip the few points that are the difference between being title-winners and the rest.

As an impartial observer now, I have to say that Manchester United will go on to win the championship. It might have been different if they were still involved in the European Cup, because it was so evident that it was their priority, if not their obsession. Now, though, they have no distractions and they appear to be getting their strongest team back to fitness at just the right time.

Arsenal can push them hard, even with so many games remaining. It will not be easy for them to survive such a tough programme, but they are a resilient team who can grind out results.

Yet, when a competition is so close, you also need luck and everything I have seen recently suggests that United are enjoying every ounce of it. I watched their game against Wimbledon and everything fell perfectly for them. Michael Hughes had a great chance to put Wimbledon ahead, but his shot cannoned into a defender who did not know anything about it. Then United went to the other end and scored two goals that Joe Kinnear was entitled to be furious about because of the possibility of offside.

It is one of the oldest sayings in sport that you make your own luck and maybe United deserve theirs. With their record in recent seasons, clearly they have players who know what it takes. I like to think that the rest of us are closing the gap and I am sure Chelsea, among others, will be coming back at them even stronger next season.

■ **Just call me Oscar**

Look out Eric Cantona. That is all I can say after I made my acting debut this week in Dream Team, the football show on Sky TV. I suppose it helped that I only had to play myself and there were not too many lines to learn, but the director seemed happy and maybe I should add acting to my list of potential careers once I put my boots away for the last time. It was a stressful debut, but at least you can reshoot the scene if it goes badly the first time. I needed three takes — in football, of course, you only get one.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F	HOME A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F	AWAY A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	34	67	+39	12	3	2	38	8	8	4	5	26	17	5-3-2	D1
2. ARSENAL (2)	30	60	+23	11	2	2	30	9	6	7	2	19	17	8-2-0	W4
3. LIVERPOOL (3)	32	55	+20	10	2	4	31	15	5	8	3	24	20	3-5-2	D1
4. LEEDS UTD (6)	33	54	+15	9	3	5	27	17	7	3	6	23	18	6-1-3	W2
5. CHELSEA (5)	32	51	+23	9	2	3	28	12	7	1	10	33	26	3-0-7	L1
6. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4)	31	51	+10	10	3	3	38	22	4	6	5	14	20	3-1-6	L1
7. WEST HAM UTD (7)	31	47	+4	11	3	1	32	10	3	2	11	12	30	4-4-2	L1
8. DERBY COUNTY (8)	31	45	+3	10	3	3	28	14	3	3	9	16	27	4-1-5	L3
9. ASTON VILLA (11)	33	45	-2	8	3	6	24	21	5	3	8	16	21	6-0-4	W3
10. COVENTRY CITY (9)	31	44	+1	7	7	1	22	14	4	4	8	15	22	6-3-1	D1
11. SOUTHAMPTON (10)	32	43	-3	10	1	5	27	18	3	3	10	14	26	6-0-4	L1
12. LEICESTER CITY (12)	31	41	+3	5	8	3	17	12	5	3	7	19	21	3-4-3	D1
13. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (13)	32	40	-12	9	4	4	28	22	2	3	10	18	36	4-2-4	W1
14. WIMBLEDON (14)	31	37	-4	5	5	7	16	19	4	5	5	14	15	3-3-4	D2
15. NEWCASTLE UTD (15)	31	36	-7	6	5	6	17	18	3	4	7	11	17	2-4-4	D1
16. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (16)	32	35	-16	6	6	4	19	20	3	2	11	14	29	4-3-3	D1
17. EVERTON (17)	32	34	-11	6	3	6	20	22	2	7	8	16	25	2-5-3	D1
18. BOLTON WANDERERS (19)	32	31	-19	5	8	3	16	16	1	5	10	13	32	2-3-5	D1
19. BARNSLEY (18)	32	31	-40	6	3	6	22	29	3	1	13	11	44	4-1-5	L3
20. CRYSTAL PALACE (20)	31	26	-27	0	4	10	8	29	6	4	7	19	25	1-0-9	L1

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	61	1.91
2. Manchester Utd	64	1.88
3. Liverpool	55	1.72
4. Blackburn	52	1.68
5. Arsenal	49	1.63
6. Leeds	50	1.52
7. Sheffield Wed	46	1.44
8. West Ham	44	1.42
=. Derby	44	1.42
10. Southampton	41	1.28
11. Aston Villa	40	1.21
12. Coventry	37	1.19
13. Leicester	36	1.16
14. Everton	36	1.12
15. Barnsley	33	1.03
=. Tottenham	33	1.03
17. Wimbledon	30	0.97
18. Bolton	29	0.91
19. Newcastle	26	0.90
20. Crystal Palace	27	0.87

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	25	0.74
2. Arsenal	26	0.87
3. Leeds	35	1.06
4. Leicester	33	1.06
5. Liverpool	35	1.09
6. Wimbledon	34	1.10
7. Newcastle	35	1.13
8. Coventry	38	1.16
9. Chelsea	38	1.19
10. Aston Villa	42	1.27
11. West Ham	40	1.29
12. Derby	41	1.32
13. Blackburn	42	1.35
14. Southampton	44	1.37
15. Everton	47	1.47
16. Bolton	48	1.50
17. Tottenham	49	1.53
18. Crystal Palace	54	1.74
19. Sheffield Wed	58	1.81
20. Barnsley	73	2.28

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	25	24
Aston Villa	14	26
Barnsley	21	12
Blackburn	31	21
Bolton	12	17
Chelsea	26	35
Coventry	16	21
Crystal Palace	14	13
Derby	20	24
Everton	16	20
Leeds Utd	24	26
Leicester	13	23
Liverpool	17	38
Manchester Utd	23	40
Newcastle	13	15
Sheffield Wed	21	25
Southampton	15	26
Tottenham	15	17
West Ham	16	28
Wimbledon	11	19

CLEAN SHEETS

	Clean sheet	Failed to score
Arsenal	14	7
Aston Villa	8	11
Barnsley	6	9
Blackburn	11	8
Bolton	10	11
Chelsea	10	7
Coventry	10	11
Crystal Palace	5	11
Derby	9	12
Everton	8	11
Leeds Utd	11	11
Leicester	10	8
Liverpool	11	4
Manchester Utd	16	7
Newcastle	9	11
Sheffield Wed	7	6
Southampton	7	10
Tottenham	9	12
West Ham	7	8
Wimbledon	9	12

SCORERS

Premiership only	Goals
Sutton (Blackburn)	17
Owen (Liverpool)	15
Dublin (Coventry)	14
Gallacher (Blackburn)	14
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	13
Hartson (West Ham)	13
Hasselbaink (Leeds)	13
Cole (Manchester Utd)	13
Baiano (Derby)	11
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	11
Huckerby (Coventry)	11
Wanchope (Derby)	11
Blake (Bolton)	10
Wallace (Leeds)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	10
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	9
Davies (Southampton)	9
Ferguson (Everton)	9
Flo (Chelsea)	9
Fowler (Liverpool)	9
McManaman (Liverpool)	9
Redfearn (Barnsley)	9
Vialli (Chelsea)	9

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Everton	68	5
2. Leeds Utd	67	3
3. Arsenal*	61	3
=. Chelsea	61	3
5. C Palace	62	2
6. Coventry	58	5
7. Derby	62	1
8. Bolton	57	5
9. Manchester Utd*	57	0
10. Barnsley	51	4
11. Southampton	52	3
12. Sheffield Wed	51	3
13. Blackburn	50	3
14. West Ham	49	3
15. Newcastle	49	2
16. Tottenham	50	1
17. Liverpool	46	2
18. Wimbledon	44	1
19. Leicester	40	2
20. Aston Villa	40	1

* caution downgraded/erased

REFEREES

Premiership games only	Cards Issued P	Yellow	Red
1. G Willard	17	79	7
2. M Reed	16	72	2
3. G Poll	18	71	8
4. U Rennie	17	67	3
5. G Barber	18	70	3
6. J Winter	16	60	2
7. D Elleray	17	60	4
8. P Durkin	16	56	3
9. A Wilkie	19	67	2
10. S Dunn	14	45	2
11. M Riley	16	49	2
12. N Barry	16	50	1
13. P Jones	18	53	2
14. P. Alcock	16	47	1
15. D Gallagher	15	42	2
16. M Bodenham	17	49	0
17. G Ashby	17	47	2
18. K Burge	17	43	4
19. S Lodge	18	46	2

KEY FIXTURES

THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND EUROPEAN QUALIFICATION

The spread of key fixtures for the clubs in the top half of the table is such that the FA Carling Premiership title and qualification for European club competitions will not be decided until the last week of the season.

Coventry v Aston Villa (today)
West Ham v Derby (today)
Blackburn v Arsenal (April 13)
West Ham v Blackburn (April 18)
Coventry v Liverpool (April 19)
Chelsea v Liverpool (April 25)
Leeds v Coventry (April 25)
Arsenal v Derby (April 29)
Chelsea v Blackburn (April 29)
Coventry v Blackburn (May 2)
Liverpool v West Ham (May 2)
Leeds v Manchester Utd (May 4)
Liverpool v Arsenal (May 6)
Aston Villa v Arsenal (May 10)
Derby v Liverpool (May 10)

THE RELEGATION BATTLE

Easter should clarify the relegation picture with six important games being played — the clubs on the fringes may find relative safety. There should be added drama should unfold on May 2, with three interesting ties.

Barnsley v Sheffield Wed (today)
Crystal Palace v Leicester (today)
Southampton v Wimbledon (today)
Newcastle v Barnsley (April 13)
Wimbledon v Everton (April 13)
Leicester v Southampton (April 14)
Barnsley v Tottenham (April 18)
Everton v Leicester (April 18)
Everton v Sheffield Wed (April 25)
Tottenham v Newcastle (April 25)
Newcastle v Leicester (April 29)
Barnsley v Leicester (May 2)
Bolton v Crystal Palace (May 2)
Wimbledon v Tottenham (May 2)
Crystal Palace v Sheff Wed (May 10)
Tottenham v Southampton (May 10)

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites

Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
Barnsley	www.yorkshire-web.co.uk/bfc/BFC.HTML
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	www.dcfc.co.uk
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheffield Wed	www.swfc.co.uk
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

*Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * denotes all-ticket Pools coupon numbers in brackets In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available.*

FA Carling Premiership
(1) † Arsenal v Newcastle
(2) † Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday
(3) Bolton v Blackburn
(4) Chelsea v Tottenham
(5) Coventry v Aston Villa
(6) Crystal Palace v Leicester
(7) Everton v Leeds
(8) † Southampton v Wimbledon
(9) West Ham v Derby

Nationwide League
First division
(10) Birmingham v Port Vale
(11) Bradford v Nottingham Forest
(12) Charlton v Reading P
(13) Huddersfield v Crewe
(14) Ipswich v Tranmere
(15) Middlesbrough v Bury
(16) * Oxford Utd v Swindon
(17) Sheffield Utd v Norwich
(18) Stockport v West Bromwich
(19) Stoke v Portsmouth
(20) Wolverhampton v Manchester City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	41	25	8	8	72	39	83
* Sunderland	40	23	10	7	74	41	79
Charlton	42	23	9	10	78	49	78
Middlesbrough	40	22	9	9	65	39	75
Sheffield Utd	39	18	14	7	57	41	68
Ipswich	40	18	13	9	65	40	67
Birmingham	41	16	15	10	53	34	63
Wolverhampton	40	17	9	14	47	40	60
Bradford	41	14	14	13	44	45	56
West Bromwich	41	15	11	15	41	47	56
Stockport	41	16	7	18	62	60	55
Oxford Utd	41	15	8	18	55	55	53
Swindon	41	14	9	18	39	60	51
Crewe	40	15	5	20	46	57	50
Huddersfield	41	12	11	18	47	60	47
Tranmere	40	12	11	17	45	50	47
Bury	41	9	19	13	39	50	46
Port Vale	41	12	9	20	50	58	45
* QPR	41	10	15	16	45	58	45
Norwich	41	11	12	18	39	65	45
Man City	41	11	10	20	47	49	43
Portsmouth	41	11	10	20	44	58	43
Reading	42	11	9	22	38	72	42
Stoke	41	9	13	19	38	63	40

* not including last night's match

Second division
(21) Brentford v Fulham
(22) Burnley v Bristol City
(23) Carlisle v Oldham
(24) * Chesterfield v Northampton
(25) Gillingham v Luton
(26) Plymouth v Blackpool
(27) Preston v Southend
(28) Walsall v Millwall
(29) Watford v Wrexham
(30) York v Bournemouth

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bristol City	41	24	9	8	65	33	81
Watford	41	21	14	6	61	38	77
Grimsby	42	18	14	10	53	33	68
Wrexham	41	17	14	10	50	46	65
Fulham	41	18	10	13	51	38	64
Northampton	41	16	15	10	45	32	63
Bristol R	42	17	10	15	64	60	61
Gillingham	41	17	10	14	46	45	61
Blackpool	41	16	9	16	52	58	57
Chesterfield	41	14	15	12	41	39	57
Bournemouth	41	14	12	15	50	48	54
Oldham	40	13	14	13	54	47	53
Wycombe	42	12	16	14	48	52	52
Millwall	41	14	10	17	41	49	52
Wigan	41	14	9	18	55	65	51
York	41	12	15	14	47	54	51
Luton	41	12	14	15	50	56	50
Preston	41	13	11	17	48	50	50
Walsall	40	13	11	16	40	48	50
Brentford	41	10	16	15	45	62	46
Plymouth	41	11	12	18	49	62	45
Burnley	40	10	12	18	45	53	42
Carlisle	41	11	8	22	51	61	41
Southend	41	11	8	22	45	72	41

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Hastings; Atherstone v Tamworth; Bromsgrove v Nuneaton, Burton Albion v Rothwell, Dorchester v Merthyr; Gloucester v Worcester City; Gresley v Cambridge City; Halesowen v Bath; King's Lynn v Stillingbourne; St Leonards v Crawley. Southern division: Baldock v Erith and Belvedere, Bashley v Fareham; Clevedon v Yate; Dartford v Chelmsford; Fisher London v Margate; Newport AFC v Cirencester Town; Newport IoW v Fleet T; Tonbridge Angels v Havant; Trowbridge v Weston-super-Mare; Waterlooville v Weymouth; Witney v Cinderford Midland division: Badworth v Bilston; Corby v Brackley Town; Evesham v VS Rugby; Grantham v Wisbech Town; Hinckley Utd v Solihull Boro; Paget R v Blakenall, RC Warwick v Raunds T; Redditch v Moor Green; Shepshed D v Ilkeston; Stourbridge v Stafford
LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Ebbw Vale (2.0); Flint Town v Cwmbran (2.0); Haverfordwest v Connah's Quay (2.0), Newtown v Caersws Bay (2.30); Porthmadog v Barry (2.30); Rhayader Town v Bangor City (2.30); Rhyl v Caersws (2.30), TNS v Aberystwyth (2.30); Welshpool v Carmarthen Town (2.30).
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby v Glasshoughton Welfare; Eccleshill v Ossett Town, Hallam v Arnold, Hucknall Town v Selby; North Ferriby v Hatfield Main; Ossett Albion v Brigg Town, Pickering v Maltby MW; Ponstract Colls v Armthorpe Welfare, Sheffield v Curzon Ashton; Thackley v Liversedge

Third division
(31) * Barnet v Leyton Orient
(32) * Cambridge Utd v Peterborough
(33) Cardiff v Colchester
(34) Chester v Doncaster
(35) Hull v Hartlepool
(36) Lincoln v Exeter
(37) Mansfield v Torquay
(38) Notts County v Brighton
(39) Rochdale v Scarborough
(—) Rotherham v Swansea
(—) Scunthorpe v Macclesfield
(—) Shrewsbury v Darlington

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	41	26	10	5	68	36	88
Torquay	41	20	10	11	61	49	70
Macclesfield	41	19	13	9	53	39	70
Barnet	41	19	12	10	58	43	69
Scarborough	41	19	11	11	66	52	68
Colchester	41	18	10	13	63	53	64
Lincoln	41	17	13	11	50	46	64
Peterborough	41	17	12	12	60	44	63
Rotherham	41	14	17	10	57	52	59
Leyton Orient	40	16	11	13	52	38	59
Exeter	41	14	15	12	64	53	57
Mansfield	41	14	14	13	57	50	56
Scunthorpe	40	15	11	14	50	50	56
Chester	41	15	9	17	52	54	54
Cambridge Utd	41	12	17	12	56	52	53
Hartlepool	41	11	20	10	55	48	53
Shrewsbury	41	13	12	16	53	57	51
Darlington	41	13	10	18	53	66	49
Cardiff	41	9	22	10	47	44	49
Rochdale	41	14	6	21	45	69	48
Swansea	41	12	9	20	44	56	45
Brighton	41	6	14	21	31	57	32
Hull	41	8	7	26	45	74	31
Doncaster	41	4	7	30	28	105	19

Vauxhall Conference
(—) Gateshead v Dover
(—) Hayes v Farnborough
(—) Hereford v Halifax
(—) Kettering v Stalybridge
(—) Kidderminster v Welling
(—) Morecambe v Northwich
(—) Rushden and Diamonds v Leek
(—) Southport v Stevenage
(—) Woking v Cheltenham
(—) Yeovil v Hednesford

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(40) Dundee Utd v Aberdeen
(41) Hibernian v Hearts
(42) Motherwell v Kilmarnock
(43) St Johnstone v Dunfermline

First division
(44) Ayr v Hamilton
(45) Falkirk v Stirling
(46) Greenock Morton v St Mirren
(47) Partick v Airdrie
(48) Raith v Dundee

Second division
(49) Brechin v Stranraer
(—) Clyde v East Fife
(—) Clydebank v Forfar
(—) Inverness CT v Stenhousemuir
(—) Queen of South v Livingston

Third division
(—) Albion v Ross County
(—) Alloa v Dumbarton
(—) Arbroath v Berwick
(—) Cowdenbeath v Montrose
(—) Queen's Park v East Stirling

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham v Boreham Wood; Dulwich v Harrow; Enfield v Bromley; Gravesend and Northfleet v Hitchin; Hendon v Aylesbury; Heybridge v Carshalton; Purfleet v Basingstoke; St Albans v Walton and Hersham; Sutton United v Dagenham and Redbridge; Yeading v Bishop's Stortford. First division: Abingdon Town v Worthing; Aldershot Town v Romford; Barton Rovers v Leatherhead; Billericay v Staines; Bognor Regis v Wokingham; Chertsey v Wembley; Croydon v Berkhamsted; Hampton v Thame Utd; Uxbridge v Molesey; Whyteleafe v Maidenhead. Second division: Braintree v Met Police, Edgware v Wealdstone; Egham v Chesham; Horsham v Bedford T; Hungerford v Canvey Island; Leighton Town v Wivenhoe; Marlow v Bracknell; Northwood v Barking; Tilbury v Banstead; Tooting and Mitcham v Chalfont St Peter; Witham v Windsor and Eton. Third division: Aveley v Kingsbury; Camberley Town v Southall; Clapton v Corinthian-Casuals; Epsom and Ewell v Harlow; Hornchurch v East Thurrock; Lewes v Hemel Hempstead; Tring v Hertford, Ware v Rickmansworth; Wingate and Finchley v Ford Utd
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Altrincham v Bishop Auckland; Bamber Bridge v Altrincham, Barrow v Blyth Spartans, Boston v Leigh RMI, Colwyn Bay v Accrington Stanley; Frickley v Guiseley; Radcliffe v Emley; Runcorn v Marine, Spennymoor v Gainsborough, Winsford v Lancaster First division: Belper Town v Gretna, Burton v Harrogate Town; Congleton v Bradford Pk Ave; Eastwood Town v Ashton United, Great Harwood v Matlock Town; Trafford v Whitley Bay, Whitby v Lincoln United, Workington v Worksop

TOMORROW

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Rangers v Celtic (4.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v UCD (2.0)
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal v Bradford (2.0); Millwall v Everton (2.0)

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: Football Focus, from 12.20pm; Match of the Day (FA Carling Premiership action, with extended highlights of Arsenal v Newcastle United, Bolton Wanderers v Blackburn Rovers and Everton v Leeds United), from 10.35pm (repeated tomorrow at 8am) Sky Sports 1: Spanish league (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: Channel 4: Football Italia (live coverage of AS Roma v Internazionale), from 2.10pm. Sky Sports 1: Bell's Scottish League premier division, Rangers v Celtic (live), from 3pm.
RADIO: Today: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage of a Premiership match in Sport on 5, from 1pm. Tomorrow: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage of Rangers v Celtic in Sunday Sport, from 1pm.

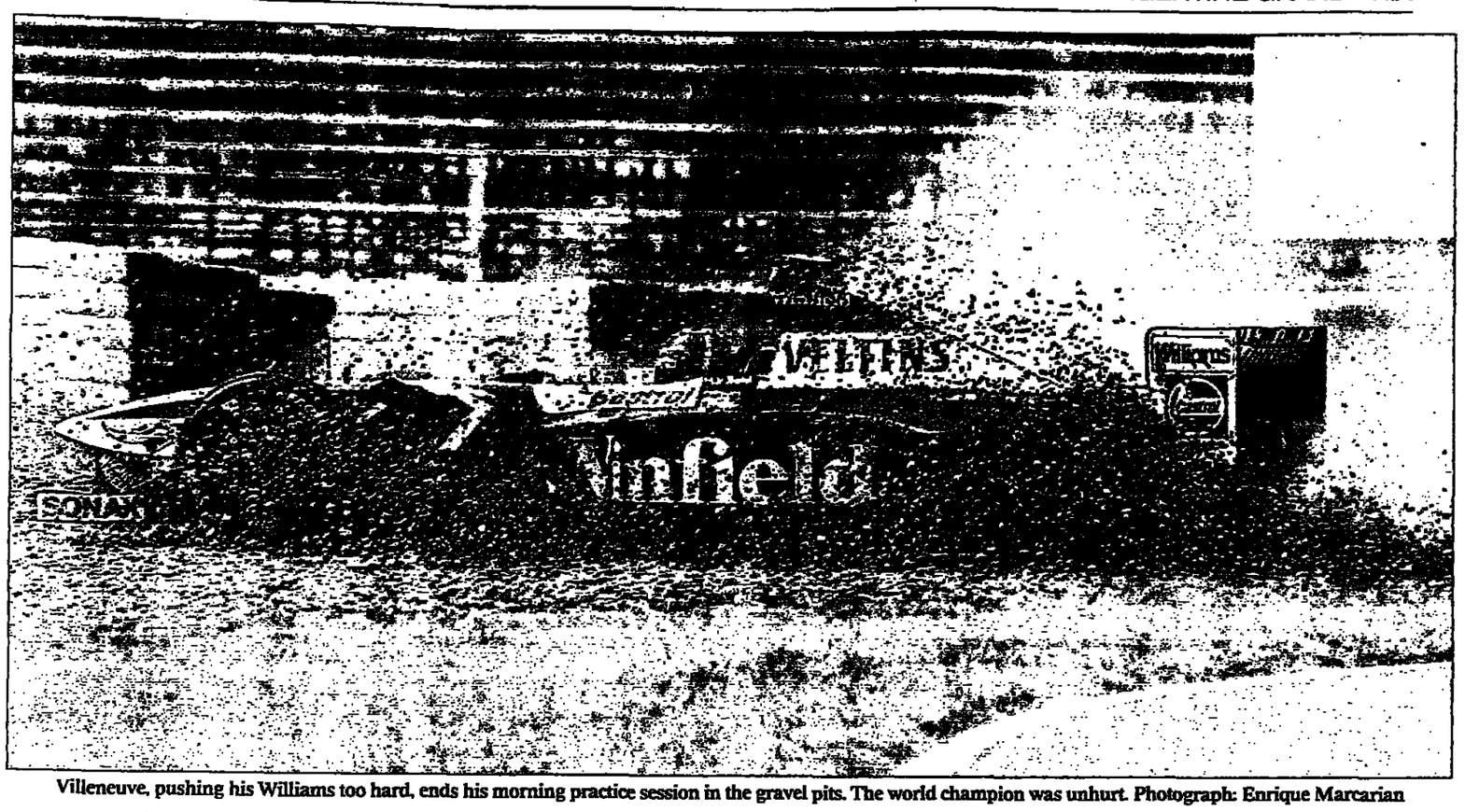


Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

MOTOR RACING: FORMER CHAMPION AIMING TO COME BETWEEN McLARENS IN ARGENTINE GRAND PRIX



Villeneuve, pushing his Williams too hard, ends his morning practice session in the gravel pits. The world champion was unhurt. Photograph: Enrique Marcarian

Schumacher explores first division

PERHAPS when things are perfect, practice is an unnecessary imposition that only disturbs the calm. As car after car left the pits to start practice yesterday, Mika Hakkinen sat on a bench swinging his legs and chatting to his mechanics in the McLaren garage. David Coulthard strolled to the pit wall and gazed impassively as McLaren's rivals tore down the pit straight.

Neither man showed the slightest inclination to show off the anticipated dominance of their McLarens, which have finished the first two races of the season in one-two formation.

They popped out for Formula One's equivalent of a morning stroll, nosing slowly around one lap before relaxing. With eight minutes left of the first session, Coulthard decided to flex his car's metal muscles for half a dozen laps. Hakkinen waited until the last five minutes to put in six relaxed laps.

The McLaren drivers are not just confident, they — like the rest of Formula One — are clearly expecting the Argentine Grand Prix tomorrow to provide them with another cakewalk.

Michael Schumacher believes that his Ferrari will be quicker here, using new Goodyear tyres on what looks to be a slippery Buenos Aires circuit, a factor emphasised in the afternoon by a brief but heavy shower. However, realistically, third place is still Schumacher's best hope, although he is confident of doing better than that. "I expect to make a step forward here, which may even give us a chance to get between the McLaren guys," Schumacher said.

Hakkinen, who is chasing a fourth successive victory and is normally the master of understatement, responded: "I don't think they can catch us. They will get closer to us, for sure, though I don't know by how much."

Judging by the activity in the two practice sessions yesterday, his rivals are at least trying their best to turn this grand prix into some sort of spectacle. Jacques Villeneuve hurled himself into the action, reeling off 20 laps until enthusiasm overcame the grip of his Williams and he ended up in the gravel.

The world champion and Heinz-Harald Frentzen, his team-mate, as well as the Ferraris, Benettons and Jordans, all practised for at least twice as many laps as the McLarens in the morning.

Johnny Herbert, of Great Britain, would have liked a substantial practice session, but the apparently bizarre first-lap decision of Jean Alesi, his Sauber partner, to go needlessly round his team-mate on the tightest part of the circuit put paid to that as they collided and went off. Herbert had to kill time while his car was checked, while Alesi abandoned the session because of damage to his car.

The Jordans of Damon Hill and Ralf Schumacher emerged sporting new side winglets — looking like the handles on a bobsleigh — in an attempt to find more grip. This circuit has a series of tight corners that could provide some overtaking opportunities for the drivers that can brake hard and late and still stay on the track.

Esteban Tuero, Formula One's newest driver, made an inauspicious start in front of his home crowd. Tuero is only just old enough to vote and looks even younger.

Much is expected of the 19-year-old as Argentina looks for a future world champion to follow in the footsteps of the great Fangio and Carlos Reutemann. They may have to wait for a while yet, though, as Tuero's Minardi is a very long way off the pace here.

Yesterday, Tuero did not get much of a chance to show his countrymen what he could do, for two minutes into the first session, he spun gracefully. Worse was to come. The shower that temporarily drenched the circuit encouraged Tuero to come out first on wet tyres for afternoon practice.

He was being chased by Frentzen, who, apparently blinded by spray, braked too late and charged into the rear of the Minardi. The walk back to the pits was long but followed by enthusiastic applause as though the diminutive Argentinian was somehow still the hero of the hour.

Back on the track, the McLarens made another brief appearance, just long enough for Coulthard to go fastest while Hakkinen, who did fewer laps than any of the other leading contenders, was third, behind Michael Schumacher, with Villeneuve fourth and Eddie Irvine fifth.

So the German had managed to come between the McLarens, in practice at least. The question is, can he do it again tomorrow?

From Kevin Eason in Buenos Aires

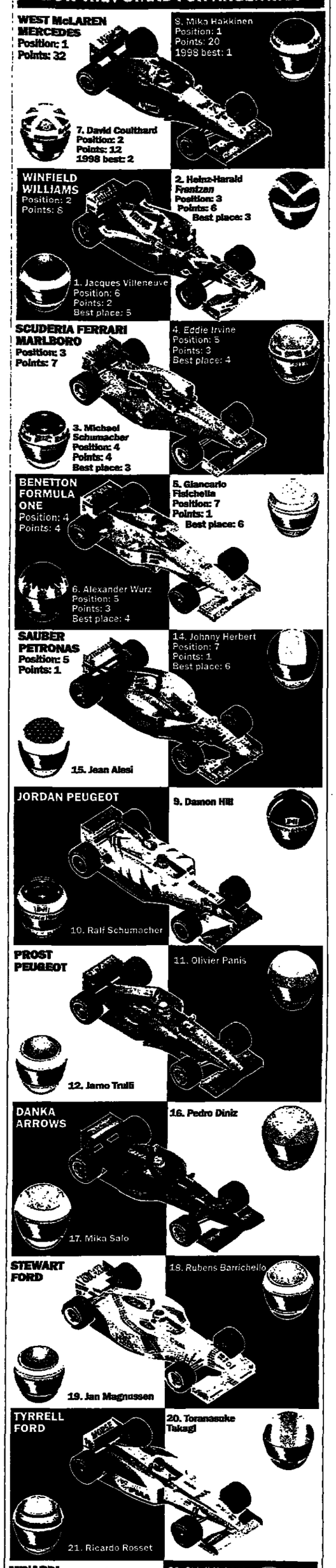
BUENOS AIRES DETAILS

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1min 28.130sec; 2, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:29.114; 3, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1:29.488; 4, J Villeneuve (Canada, Williams) 1:29.610; 5, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:29.781; 6, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:29.845; 7, T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:30.064; 8, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams) 1:30.317; 9, D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:30.645; 10, J Alesi (Fr, Sauber) 1:30.859; 11, G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1:30.963; 12, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:31.081; 13, O Panis (Fr, Prost-Peugeot) 1:31.297; 14, J Trulli (It, Prost-Peugeot) 1:31.428; 15, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:31.727; 16, R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:31.761; 17, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 1:31.850; 18, M Salo (Fin, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:32.257; 19, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:32.660; 20, S Nakano (Japan, Minardi-Ford) 1:33.390; 21, E Tuero (Arg, Minardi-Ford) 1:33.731; 22, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:34.829.

LEADING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS: Drivers: 1, Hakkinen 20pts; 2, Coulthard 12; 3, Frentzen 6 pts, 4, Schumacher 4; 5, Irvine, and Wurz; 6, Villeneuve 2; 7, Herbert and Fisichella 1 pt. Constructors: 1, McLaren-Mercedes 32pts; 2, Williams-Mecachrome 8; 3, Ferrari 7; 4, Benetton-Mecachrome 4; 5, Sauber-Petronas 1.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Argentine (Buenos Aires). April 26: San Marino (Imola). May 10: Spanish (Barcelona). May 24: Monaco (Monte Carlo). June 7: Canadian (Montreal). June 28: French (Magny-Cours). July 12: British (Silverstone). July 26: Austrian (Zeltweg). August 2: German (Hockenheim). August 16: Hungarian (Budapest). August 30: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). September 13: Italian (Monza). September 27: Luxembourg (Nurburgring). November 1: Japanese (Suzuka).

GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR ARGENTINA



THE BUENOS AIRES CIRCUIT



THE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO

ITV TELEVISION: Qualifying Today 4.40pm. Race Tomorrow 4.20pm (live), 12.10am (highlights), 2.35am (repeat)

RADIO: Race live in Sunday Sport on BBC Radio 5 Live

HOCKEY: ENGLISH CLUBS MAKE CONVINCING START IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S EUROPEAN TOURNAMENT FINALS

Teddington look the part

By Sydney Friskin

NICK CONWAY scored twice as Teddington enjoyed a fine start in the European Cup Winners' Cup with a 3-1 victory over Stroitel Brest, of Belarus, at Den Bosch, Holland yesterday.

Teddington, who were quicker into their stride, went ahead with Conway's first goal in the 21st minute. Although Stroitel then offered stiffer opposition, McGuire put Teddington further ahead three minutes into the second half by converting a penalty stroke. Six minutes later, Conway rounded off a combined raid with his second goal.

Vitali, in the Stroitel goal, made several smart saves to prevent his side from conceding further goals and only two minutes remained when Vietcheslav scored a consolation goal. Today, Teddington will face a stiffer test against Ekaterinburg, the Russian club, who defeated Pocztowiec, of Poland, 2-0.

At Brasschaat, in Belgium, Reading, too, made an encouraging start in the B division of the European club championship, beating WAC, of Austria, by 6-2 after trailing 2-1 at half-time.

Reading snatched the lead in the eighth minute with a goal by Oscroft from a short corner, but the Austrians retaliated with goals from Fischer and Mayer. Seven minutes into the second half, Ashdown levelled for Reading from a short corner and, increasing their workrate, Reading took control of the match.

Pearn put them 3-2 ahead in the 45th minute, Jon Wyatt increased the advantage three minutes later, from a short corner, and further goals by Todd and Slay, also from a short corner, completed the scoring.

Reading will be confident of success today when they play Partille, of Sweden, who lost 9-0 to SKA Samara, of Russia, yesterday.

England, who are defending their under-18 title in the six-nations tournament at Milton Keynes, suffered a setback yesterday against Germany, who won a tight match 2-1 after taking the lead after 13 minutes through Oliver Hentschel. Two minutes before the interval, Philip Sully, a substitute, squared the match, but England could fiund no answer to Matthias Witthaus's 45th-minute effort for the German club. In the girl's event, England also went down 2-1 to Germany.

Slough make perfect start

By Cathy Harris

SLOUGH swept to a convincing victory in their opening match of the women's European championship A division when they defeated Donchanka Volgodonsk, from Russia, 6-1 at Southgate Hockey Centre yesterday.

It was the perfect start for the English champions, who know that they will rarely have a better chance of achieving their ambition of becoming the first British club to win the title. Hesitant and nervous early on, they struggled to break down the Russians, who showed impressive anticipation in defence mixed with some robust marking and tackling.

But Sarah Kelleher, who had an outstanding game in midfield, settled Slough's nerves with a seventh-minute strike from a penalty corner and then Julia Robertson finished off a neat corner routine involving four switches in the 28th minute. The two-goal cushion gave Slough the confidence to push forward with greater conviction after the restart.

Kelleher made it 3-0 with a fierce shot five minutes in to the second period, but Slough were then briefly frustrated by the Donchanka goalkeeper, Oxana Boiko, who made a series of superb saves. It could not last, however. Sue MacDonald added the fourth after 46 minutes, Karen Brown converted a penalty stroke and then Jane Smith flicked in Slough's eighth penalty corner to complete an emphatic victory. Olga Ouchkova scored a consolation goal six minutes from time.

Slough's next opponents today in pool B are Lorenzoni, the Italian champions, who were crushed 7-0 by the seven-times former champions, HGC, from Holland.

In pool A, Edinburgh Ladies fought back to earn a point against the Spanish champions, Real Sociedad when Val Neil hammered in a 56th-minute penalty corner goal to steer them to a 2-2 draw. The Scottish team took an early lead through Fiona Pearson, but Sociedad responded by scoring twice within a minute to lead 2-1 at the break.

Hightown's prospects of retaining their status in the A division at the European Cup Winners' Cup in Leuven, Belgium, look slim after they slumped to a 7-1 defeat in their opening match against Dinamo Sumy, from Lithuania, who led 4-0 at half-time.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

FA Carling Premiership

MAN UTD (1) 1 LIVERPOOL (1) 1
Johnsen 12
Owen 36

Semi all. M Owen (Liverpool) 40

Nationwide League

First division

CHARLTON (2) 3 READING (0) 0
Mendonca 6
Hreidarsson 44
Wright 79
14,220

Second division

BRISTOL R (3) 5 WIGAN (0) 0
Hawkes 25
Samuel 31
Beadle 45, 51, 56
6,038

WYCOMBE (1) 1 GRIMSBY (0) 1
Scott 17
Lester 90
2,346

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 1 Blyth Spartans 1.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Jarrow Roofing 1 South Shields 1

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishopton 0 Keynsham 0. Bristol Manor Farm 0 Mangotsfield 2. Chard 2 St Blazey 2. Odd Down 1 Paulton 2. Wellsbury 0 Melksham 2

UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE. John O'Hara League Cup final: Burgess Hill 3 Portfield 2

Thursday's late results

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Drogheda 0 Shamrock 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 2 Leeds 3

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Tow Law 1 RTM Newcastle 1

LIBERTADORES CUP: Group two: Vasco da Gama (Br) 1 America (Mex) 1. Group five: River Plate (Arg) 2 Alianza (Peru) 0. Sporting Cristal (Peru) 1 Colon (Arg) 1

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Durham Under-13 festival: Gateshead 4 Hull 0; Derwentside 1 Bradford 0, Luton 0 Allerdale 3

GERMAN LEAGUE: Kaiserslautern 1 Borussia Dortmund 1; Vfl. Bochum 1 Hansa Rostock 3

☐ *Other matches postponed.*

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Texas 11 Chicago White Sox 0. Baltimore 2 Kansas City 1. Minnesota 13 Toronto 2. Postponed: Detroit v Tampa Bay.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 4 Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 8 NY Mets 7, San Diego 6 Cincinnati 2. Montreal 8 Milwaukee 5, St Louis 7 Colorado 5, Los Angeles 7 Arizona 2; Houston 3 San Francisco 1. Postponed: Philadelphia v Florida

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA). Detroit 102 Washington 83; Indiana 105 Atlanta 102 (OT); Cleveland 91 Chicago 85; Seattle 103 Dallas 101, Denver 126 Sacramento 103; Houston 93 Golden State 89; Portland 99 LA Clippers 85

BOWLS

LLANELLI: Welsh Ladies Indoor Bowling Association Champion of Champions: Singles: First round: B Morgan (Radnorshire) bt B John (Cardiff) 7-1, 7-0, M Williams (Dinefwr) bt W Evans (Earlswood) 6-7, 7-0, 7-4, A Davies (Llanelli) bt P Jenkins (Newport) 7-6, 5-7, 7-4, J Davies (Ogwr) bt E Mantel (Rhondda) 7-2, 4-7, 7-4, L Phillips (Cynon Valley) bt J Lumberley (Brp Mynddin) 7-6, 5-7, 7-2; P Skinner (Torfaen) bt J Hennighan (Bath Dolyfli) 7-3, 7-3, Mair Jones (Merthyr Tydfil) bt M Tanner (Holder) (Taff Ely) 7-2, 7-6. Second round: Morgan bt Williams 7-5, 7-0, J Davies bt A Davies 7-2, 4-7, 7-4, Phillips bt Skinner 7-3, 7-0; Jones bt Morris 7-6, 5-7, 7-4, A Mullins (Islwyn) bt J Wills (Swansea) 7-6, 6-7, 7-5, V Edwards (Heatherton) bt M Carter (Severn Valley) 7-1, 6-7, 7-1, A Dainton (Vale of Glamorgan) bt M Rosser (Pontardawe) 7-3, 7-6. Quarter-finals: Morgan bt Davies 7-3, 7-6; Jones bt Phillips 7-3, 7-3, Mullins bye, Dainton bt Edwards 7-1, 7-2. Semi-finals: Jones bt Morgan 7-0, 7-2, Dainton bt Mullins 2-7, 7-4, 7-1. Final: Jones bt Dainton 7-3, 7-3.

CYCLING

VITORIA, Spain: Tour of the Basque Country: Fourth stage (Viana-Vitoria, 187km): 1, A Elli (It) (Casino) 5hr 14min 10sec; 2, L Jalabert (Fr) at same time, 3, F Casagrande (It), 4, B Zberg (Switz); 5, P Lanfranchi (It) all at same time. Overall standings: 1, *I Cuesta (Sp) 15hr 18min 26sec; 2, Jalabert at 51sec, 3, Casagrande, 4, V Belli (It) both same time.*

CRICKET

Triangular tournament

Pakistan v Sri Lanka

PAARL (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by 110 runs

PAKISTAN: 249 (Ijaz Ahmed 85, Saeed Anwar 53)

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya lbw b Waqar	8
†R S Kaluwitharana c Rashid b Akram	18
R S Mahanama lbw b Akram	7
P A de Silva b Razzak	31
*A Ranatunga lbw b Waqar	2
D R M Jayawardene run out	11
H D P K Dharmasena c Yousaf b Mohammad	17
U D C Chandana c Rashid b Wasim Akram	23
M Muralitharan c Shahid b Azhar	0
K R Pushpakumara b Azhar	0
K S C de Silva not out	0
Extras (lb 6, w 15, nb 1)	22
Total (34.2 overs)	139

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-38, 3-47, 4-54, 5-91, 6-93, 7-128, 8-132, 9-132

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 7.2-1-24-3; Waqar Younis 7.0-41-2; Azhar Mahmood 10-1-27-2; Abdul Razzak 5-0-16-1; Mohammad Hussain 5-0-25-1

Umpires: W A Diedricks and C J Mitchley

ICE HOCKEY

GERMANY: European junior championships: Group B: Great Britain 1 Denmark 5. Great Britain now face France in relegation play-offs.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 4 NY Islanders 1; Carolina 5 Toronto 2; Detroit 5 Phoenix 1; Florida 3 Philadelphia 2; Ottawa 4 Pittsburgh 1, St Louis 3 Chicago 2; Vancouver 6 Calgary 3; Edmonton 4 Los Angeles 0; San Jose 5 Anaheim 2.

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bath	13	Saracens	29

Bath: Try: Adebayo. Con: Catard. Pens: Catard 2. Saracens: Tries: Pienaar, R Wallace. Cons: Lynagh 2. Pens: Lynagh 5. Att: 8,200

Richmond	43	Bristol	3

Richmond: Tries: Chapman 3, C Quinnell 2, Bateman, Brown. Cons: A Davies 4 Bristol: Pen: Hull

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	15	14	0	1	455	267	28
Saracens	17	14	0	3	462	309	28
Bath	15	11	0	4	444	311	22
Leicester	15	9	1	5	403	305	19
Gloucester	17	8	1	8	381	408	17
Northampton	15	7	1	7	329	264	15
Richmond	17	7	0	10	404	367	14
Harlequins	16	7	0	9	390	440	14
Sale	15	6	1	8	411	386	13
Wasps	15	4	0	11	321	429	8
London Irish	16	4	0	12	320	517	8
Bristol	17	2	0	15	268	588	4

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Hull	6	London	4

Hull Sharks: Try: Johnson. Goal: Hallas. London Broncos: Try: Chapman. Att: 6,386

St Helens	18	Wigan	38

St Helens: Tries: Haigh, Marwyn, Newlove. Goals: Goulding 3. Wigan Warriors: Tries: Connolly, Gilmour, P Johnson, Radlinski, Robinson, Smith. Goals: Farrell 7. Att: 11,414

Warrington	4	Salford	37

Warrington Wolves: Try: Kohe-Love, Salford Reds: Tries: Rogers 2, Bradbury, Broadbent, Forber, Hulme, Naylor. Goals: Crompton 4. Dropped goal: Crompton. Att: 5,567.

First division

Swinton	32	Leigh	22

Swinton Lions: Tries: M Barrow 2, Garland 2, Cannon, S Casey. Goals: Garland 4. Leigh Centurions: Tries: Hadcroft 2, Hill, Murray, Wingfield. Goal: Wingfield. Att: 1,248

Second division

Barrow	26	Workington	10

Barrow Border Raiders: Tries: Kerr 4, Hutton. Goals: Marwood 2, Carter. Workington Town: Tries: Highton, Williams. Goal: Fisher. Att: 1,748.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Western Suburbs 4 Sydney City 22; Adelaide 8 Gold Coast 18; Newcastle 24 Cronulla 10. Auckland Warriors 18 Melbourne Storm 12.

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS: British Open: Fourth round: N Foulds (Eng) bt D Dale (Wales) 5-4; G Ponting (Eng) bt M King (Eng) 5-2; S Hendry (Scot) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-3. M Williams (Wales) bt G Wilkinson (Eng) 5-4. Quarter-finals: J Higgins (Scot) bt Ponting 5-4, K Doherty (Ire) bt Foulds 5-1.

TENNIS

MADRAS: Gold Flake Open: Second round: P Rafter (Aus) bt I Heuberger (Switz) 6-2, 6-4; L Paes (India) bt J Golmard (Fr) 7-6, 2-6, 3-1 ret. A Pavel (Rom) bt A Belobrajdic (Aus) 6-4, 6-0. M Tilstrom (Swe) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 7-5, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt C Caratti (It) 6-0, 6-7, 6-2. G Solves (Fr) bt B Becker (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; M Woodforde (Aus) bt R Schuttler (Ger) 6-4, 6-2. L Burgsmuller (Ger) bt A Clement (Fr) 6-3, 6-2.

LISBON: Estoril Open: First round: F DeWulf (Bel) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 7-6, 6-3; F Meligeni (Br) bt N Marques (Por) 6-3, 6-0. Second round: F Mantilla (Sp) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-1, 1-6, 7-6, K Alami (Mor) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6; T Muster (Austria) bt Meligeni 7-5, 6-3, A Costa (Sp) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-1, 6-4; C Costa (Sp) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, C Moya (Sp) bt M-K Gollner (Ger) 6-3, 6-2, J A Marin (Sp) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6-2, 6-4, A Berasategui (Sp) bt Dewulf 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

HONG KONG: Salem Open: Second round: G Pozzi (It) bt D Prpiosi (Ger) 6-4, 7-6; S Lareau (Can) bt D Nestor (Can) 7-6, 6-3; O Burneza (Sp) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-4, 6-4, K Carlsen (Den) bt G Grant (US) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4; N Godwin (SA) bt G Motomura (Japan) 6-3, 4-6, 6-0, B Black (Zim) bt C Vinch (Ger) 6-1, 6-2. Quarter-finals: T Johansson (Swe) bt S Stolle (Aus) 7-6, 7-5; B Black (Zim) bt Pozzi 6-4, 6-0; Carlsen bt Godwin 7-5, 6-1. Lareau bt O Burneza (Sp) 6-1, 7-6

TELFORD: LTA 16 and under national championships: Boys: Semi-finals: L Childs (Somerset) bt S Lockwood (Suffolk) 6-3, 6-2; B Riby (Yorkshire) bt J Nelson (Northumberland) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. Final: Childs bt Riby 6-1, 7-5. Girls: Semi-finals: H Reesby (Nottinghamshire) bt H Farr (Surrey) 5-7, 6-4, 7-5; C Seal (Leicestershire) bt H Keothavong (Middlesex) 7-5, 6-3. Final: Seal bt Reesby 6-3, 6-2

DOHA, Qatar: ATP Senior Tour of Champions: A Jarryd (Swe) bt G Vilas (Arg) 6-3, 6-3, B Borg (Swe) bt G Mayer (US) 2-6, 6-2, 10-3, J McEnroe (US) bt H Leconte (Fr) 6-3, 6-4, Y Noah (Fr) bt M Bahrami (Iran) 6-4, 6-3.

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: WTA event: Second round: A Coetzer (SA) bt M Sema (Sp) 6-3, 6-3, I Majoli (Cro) bt B Rittner (Ger) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6, M Pierce (Fr) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-1, 6-2, C Martinez (Sp) bt A Miller (US) 6-4, 6-3, J Capriati (US) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-2, 6-3. Third round: A Koumikova (Russ) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 6-1, 6-3, Majoli (Cro) bt Capriati 6-4, 6-1; T Snyder (US) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 5-7, 6-2, 6-1, L Raymond (US) bt M Seles (US) 7-6, 6-4; Coetzer bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-4, 6-7, 6-0; Martinez (Sp) bt M A Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; L Davenport (US) bt B Paulus (Austria) 7-5, 6-4; Pierce bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-4, 6-1

Hard work ethic and fervent desire go down well at Kingsholm

Hill's clear view brings best out of Gloucester

DAVID HANDS



One sign of advancing years is to see players once perceived as divisive bridging a void. It is a curiously comforting emotion, not least for the evident integrity in a game that, day by day, unearths more conflict, more bizarre ways of wounding its own image.

Richard Hill has changed little since he emerged as a student from Exeter University 13 years ago. The hair, then short, is now fashionably shaved, the grin has the confidence of achievement behind it, as a player, coach, husband, father — but the intensity remains, the fervent desire to carry himself and his club forward.

Back then, the club was Bath. Now, it is Gloucester, where Hill, 36, has been director of rugby for nearly three seasons. The two seem made for each other, even though Hill, as a scrum half, took immense satisfaction in Bath's victories at Kingsholm. Perhaps it is to do the work ethic, which is so strong a part of the Gloucester make-up and which Hill personifies.

Today, Gloucester stand in the way of Newcastle's march to the Allied Dunbar Premiership title. Not many months ago, few would have expected the West Countrymen to form much of a hurdle, but Hill has been at the forefront of the administrative hard core that has taken the culture of a proud, definitively-English club and moved it into the professional era.

In so doing, he has helped to give a great rugby area back its pride and has advanced England's cause with his development of home-grown talent. His club is part of English First-Division Rugby, which has been at odds with the Rugby Football Union (RFU): the owner of his club — Tom Walkinshaw, the Scot who created the Arrows Formula One team — is chairman of the clubs' negotiating panel that will strive this month to lay conflict to rest. Yet Hill is also England A coach and, in that sense, in direct line of succession behind Clive Woodward as national coach.

One wonders if, in fact, such individuals as Hill and Andy Robinson, his old colleague from Bath, see the problems of the English game more clearly than those at the top of the administrative mountain. If any club has found its way by degrees into the new era, step by patient step rather than hoping to resolve every difficulty at a stroke, it is Gloucester; true, they might not have done so but for Walkinshaw's cash, but they remain an object lesson for more pretentious rivals.

It has helped Hill that he has known bad times: suspension by the RFU when he captained the England team that lost a disgraceful match with Wales in 1987; dismissal from the field the next year in a club match; the bitter disappointment when, at the end of his playing days in 1994, Bath could find no coaching role for him. His personal revision of his goals, has, however, been a blessing for Gloucester, who are notoriously parochial in their acceptance of outsiders.

"My move here was enforced, but, with hindsight, it was the best thing that could have happened," Hill said. "I suppose what I brought with me from Bath was the knowledge of how to win, which I'm trying to instil into Gloucester's players, and the responsibility of the individual to do most of the work himself.

"Since their appearance in the 1990 cup final, Gloucester had been a club in free fall. The players, and this is true of other clubs, seemed to expect the coaches to spoon-feed them, to provide them with the structure for skills training, fitness training, to do all the video work.

"I shouldn't have to stand over them to make sure they do that, they should have done it themselves before I begin a technical session. My philosophy is to do it yourself."

This is the old Hill speaking, the man of 200 passes a day during his international career of 29 England appearances, the grafter who turned himself into a natural. But the same approach has an immense appeal to the Gloucester membership, in a city where unemployment has been high and where the rugby club's success or failure means so much to the man and woman in the street.

Hill has entered into that relationship. The mail box, he reflects, has not been overflowing of late, which must mean that he is doing something right. Indeed, only eight days ago, Gloucester collected their first silverware for years, appropriately in the shape of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup, which they won by beating Bedford. It may not be among the most sought-after trophies in the English game, but it will lift his players.

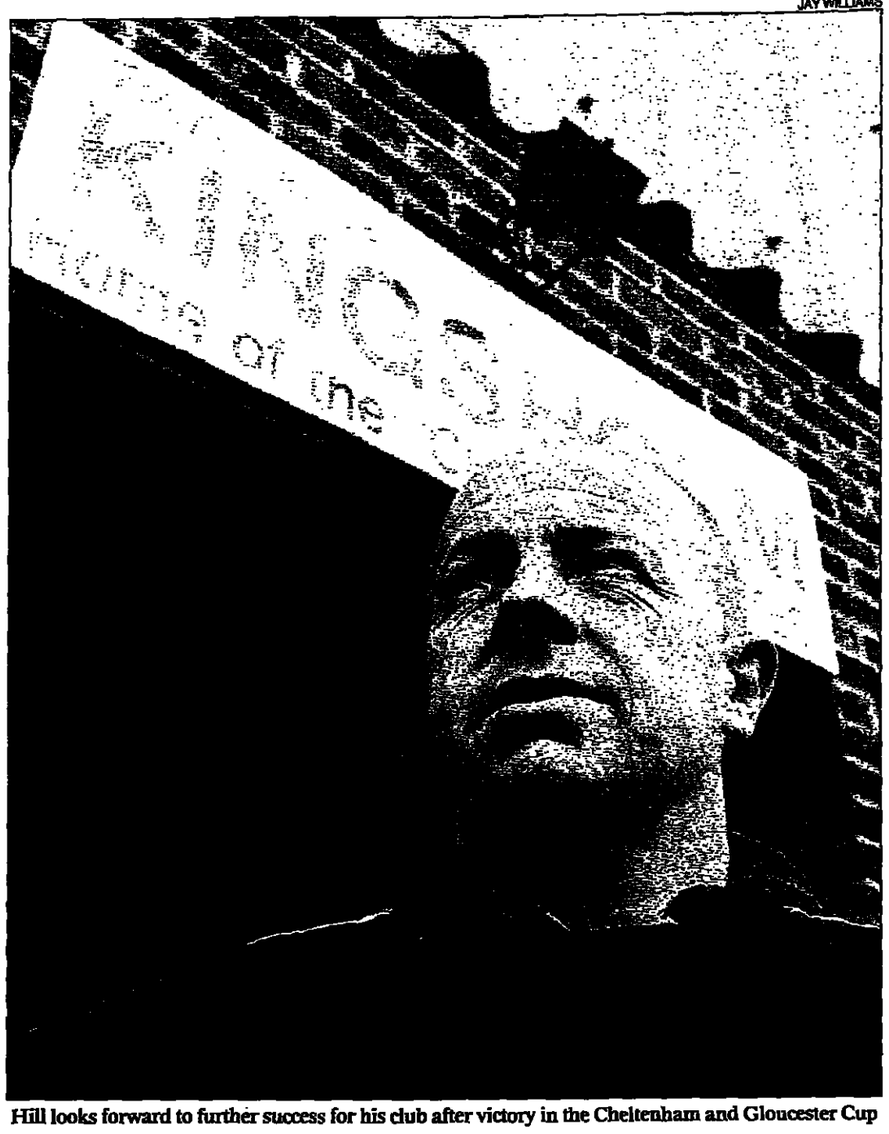
"It's vitally important you don't change the culture drastically," Hill said. "We must keep the Gloucester identity, but we have had to go overseas to compete. The members understood that and, when we signed Philippe Saint-Andre from France, followed by Terry Fanolua from Western Samoa and Richard Tombs from Australia, people felt the club could look forward rather than constantly back over its shoulder.

"I wouldn't enjoy coaching a cosmopolitan side — there have to be certain values a club retains, a certain psychology and method in the way a side plays — but we'd have been poorer without the input of the overseas players.

"We can't be closeted in our own little world, we have to learn from other cultures — as long as you keep the balance right. We're playing in an English league and it's important that the vast majority of players we produce are English."

It could be Woodward or Fran Cotton talking, yet Hill believes that what is right for his club is also right for England, that there is a halfway house that permits the identification of local talent — such as Rob Jewell, the young Gloucester wing — alongside Saint-Andre, the former France captain.

He is patently enjoying the Kingsholm experience. It is, he says, a spooky feeling when supporters write in dissecting his team in a way the Bath regulars never did, but he feels at one with the vociferous Shed. Joshua, his son, 11, has turned into a true cherry-and-white supporter, while Karen, his wife, and Natalie, 9, offer a properly feminine perspective on the game. The family home remains in Bath, the trip to and from giving Hill "thinking time". Of the bridges, perhaps, that he has crossed.



JAY WILLIAMS

Hill looks forward to further success for his club after victory in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

'He has restored a great rugby area's pride and furthered England's cause'

Title ambition buried under wasted chances

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



HAVING worked so hard last year to win the championship outright, it is disappointing to find Wasps so near the bottom of the table. What we achieved last season was through the hard-work ethic and we were delighted to gain a tangible reward for our efforts. Many people, including myself, have benefited from our collective success, the only exception, surprisingly, being Nigel Melville, the coach.

This season, we were optimistic but certainly not complacent. Defending our title was never going to be easy. We increased the squad by recruiting Mark Weedon, Simon Shaw and Trevor Leota to bolster the tight five. The ambition has always been to become better and better, as Bath and the All Blacks have shown year-in, year-out. Striving for excellence is the hallmark of all great sides, but for us, for a number of reasons, this season has been different.

We started well in Europe and went into the league with high expectations, but we suffered a seris of defeats that undermined our confidence, allied to which we had a number of injuries to key players in key positions, such as Rob Henderson, Nick Greenstock, Andy Gomarsall and Alex King. We have lost most of the back line at one time or another, but every club has those problems and I am not looking for excuses. You can blame the structure of the season or internationals, but ultimately you have to start taking responsibility yourself and appreciate that we have underperformed in a number of games.

Last year, we had the ability to win games when we did not play so well. We were cool under pressure and scored points when we needed to. The commitment and enthusiasm cannot be faulted this year, despite some poor results. Where we have fallen down is by not taking our chances and not finishing our good work. In rugby now, you spend a lot of time without the ball, so ball retention and continuity have become the key to success.

Our past few games have been typical. We dominated the second half at Newcastle on Tuesday, yet came away with only 13 points. Sooner or later, we need to start winning. We are certainly not going to panic, but obviously we would like to be at the other end of the table.

We have seven games left, five of which are at home, starting with Harlequins tomorrow. Then we meet Newcastle, Leicester, Northampton and Bath at Loftus Road and Sale and Richmond away. None of these will be easy games. The encouraging thing is that our performances are improving — but that is not enough. We have to start getting two points. That is imperative.

Now we have reached the cup final, a game that everyone will want to play in, that should have a positive effect on our league performances. It will galvanise the squad and give everyone something to aim at.

We continue under the assumption that there will be two teams going up and two down this season. We want to ensure that we stay up through our own endeavours, not through a change of the rules. The political battles that are going on seem to have new twists and turns every day, so we can nothing for granted.

> 'Sooner or later we need to start winning'

Now that Saracens have beaten Bath at home and away, everyone assumes it is a two-horse race for the championship, but if this year has shown anything, it is that anyone can win on their day. Newcastle are in the driving seat, with Saracens right behind them. The team that keeps calm under pressure will win. Newcastle and Saracens have shown in beating us and Bath respectively that they have the knack of winning games when they have been dominated for long periods. That is the mettle of champions.

When you are not going well, you either face up to the challenges or run away. I am learning all the time and I relish the challenges to come.

Pride of the valleys keep red flag flying high

Small village clubs remain the lifeblood of rugby in Wales. **Gerald Davies** pays tribute to two that are on the verge of making history in the Swalec Cup today

Last Sunday, the M4, which on quieter days delivers casual sightseers towards the subdued delights of Stow-on-the-Wold, Westward Ho! and Ilfracombe, was transformed into an artery carrying a full-scale exodus from Wales. Coaches, emblazoned with red scarves and the flag of the red dragon ensured that there should be no mistake about their destination, nor their purpose.

They came from Narberth in the west or Ceredigion, slightly to the north and, thereafter, from all points eastwards to the border and beyond. Since the game against France was at Wembley, with a capacity of 72,000 — 20,000 more than Cardiff Arms Park — there were men, women and children who could enjoy the outing.

No country in the world, I suggest, can boast a loyalty to rugby as those who, three times this season, have filled the great North London stadium. This at a time, and for well over a decade past, when Wales, through administrative argument and dissension, has seen this devotion severely tested. Yet for all this, the passion for rugby refuses to diminish.

Whence does this affirmation and fidelity, surprising and inspiring as it is, come? It springs from the villages and small clubs that adorn Wales with a rich patchwork of the H motive; on every free expanse of grass, goalposts announce this fealty to rugby.

This will be unambiguously on show today at Maes Dafydd. There, Seven Sisters, a small village north-east of Neath, will give a warm welcome to Garndiffaeth, who are neighbours of Pontypool. In other words, a good, old-fashioned west versus east tussle. This is a confrontation between two clubs in the Welsh League fourth division; Seven Sisters are in fourth position, Garndiffaeth eighth.

So what is the big deal about this particular game? For the first time in the 26-year history of the Cup competition, sponsored now by Swalec, a club not from the higher echelons of Welsh rugby is assured of reaching the semi-finals. During the 26 tournaments so far, only 12 teams have reached the semi-final stage and all have come from the premier or first division (or their equivalent). Llanelli lead the way with 19 appearances in the last four, from Cardiff (15), Swansea (13) and Aberavon (11).

Both Seven Sisters and Garndiffaeth have beaten teams from higher divisions. The former have beaten Tredegar and Cross Keys while the latter, who celebrate their 75th anniversary, took the scalps of Llanharan and Rumney. More significantly, and following in the footsteps of Penclawdd (who knocked Newport off their pedestal in 1980) and St Peter's (who pulled Cardiff down a peg or two in 1993), the Gwent club dispatched Bridgend in the fourth round.

With the present knee-jerk speculation surrounding the future of Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, the bookmakers are even offering odds of 100-1 on Adrian Herbert, the Garndiffaeth coach, to take over the national post.

Village rugby is the lifeblood of the game and, after the loss of heavy industry, the rugby club stands as the focal point of the small communities. Both Seven Sisters and Garndiffaeth have populations of no more than a couple of thousand, most of whom, you imagine, will be on the touchline today. It is a proud and honourable tradition that the instant and hasty change to professionalism has put under pressure.

"All our players get the same payment" David Watts, the Seven Sisters secretary, said. "We pay £40 for a win, that's all. But only in the league. Tomorrow our players will play for what our jersey represents and for the glory that lies ahead. We are what we are, a village club serving our people. We pay what we can afford. Some clubs have ambitions which exceed their income.

"Eighty per cent of our team come from the village. The sons, the fathers and grandfathers played for us. Our committee works on a voluntary basis." Operating at this level, the heart of Welsh rugby takes over as purposefully and faithfully as ever. This is the nursery of the game. It is the irregular beat elsewhere that presents the problem.

Professionalism in rugby, despite the "boot" money of the past, is a concept not easily assimilated in Wales, where the ties of emotion and the strong sense of identity are, for the moment, a truer source of inspiration than the coldness of an impersonal contract.

If there is discord elsewhere, at least Seven Sisters and Garndiffaeth know where they stand and can live harmoniously. Until 2.30pm this afternoon.

Supporters launch Yates appeal fund

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

BATH supporters have launched an appeal fund for Kevin Yates, the prop forward. Yates is serving a six-month Rugby Football Union (RFU) suspension for biting the ear of Simon Fenn during a Tetley's Bitter Cup match against London Scottish in January.

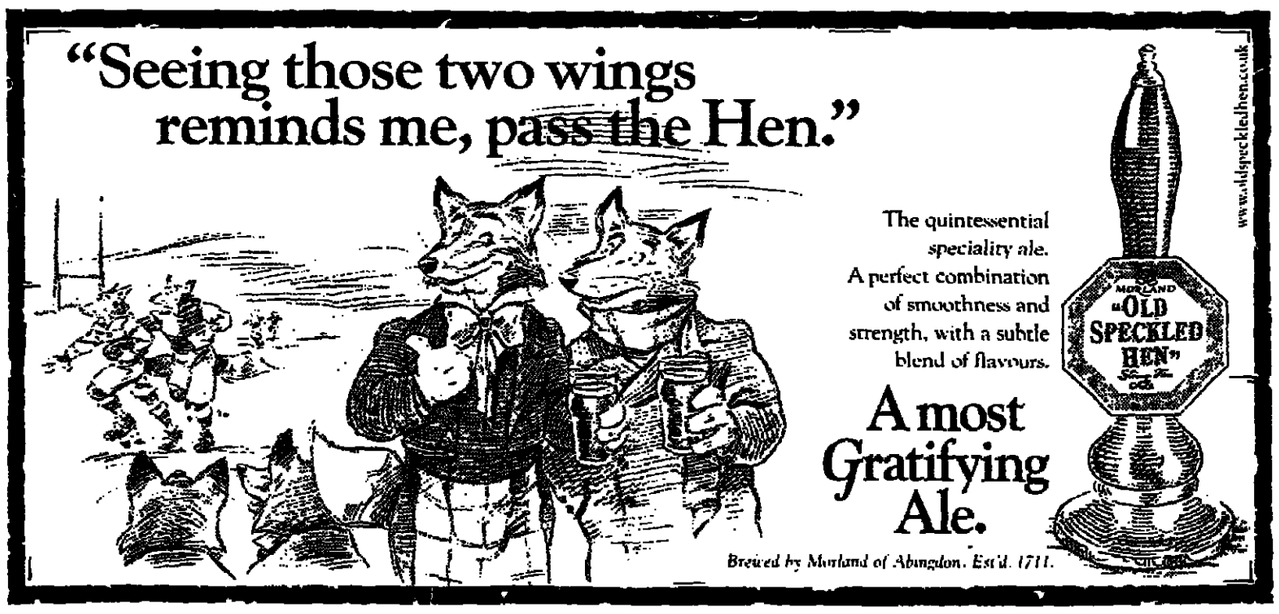
The ban sidelined Yates for England's entire Five Nations Championship campaign and a demanding southern hemisphere summer tour featuring international matches against Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. He is considering a High Court appeal and Bath supporters have pledged to contribute towards his legal costs.

"As a result of numerous requests from members, Bath Rugby Supporters' Club has opened a fund to aid Kevin Yates," a statement issued by Bath supporters said. "Kevin has always robustly maintained his innocence, but the costs of trying to clear his name are horrendous."

Yates is eligible to return on July 10, but faces the daunting prospect of rebuilding his career after being found guilty of such serious allegations. Fenn, an Australian flanker, required 28 stitches, although he has resumed playing.

The incident received worldwide attention, the entire Bath front row of Yates, Federico Méndez and Victor Ubogu originally being cited by London Scottish as they demanded action.

Citation papers against Méndez and Ubogu were subsequently scrapped and Yates was then suspended on full pay by his club pending the RFU hearing.



RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

ATTACK

This table ranks clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division in terms of most points, tries and penalty goals scored. The fourth category is the percentage in which they have scored tries. The best overall side in attack is calculated by averaging every club's performance in each category. The figures in brackets denotes each club's rankings in the individual categories.

	Points	Tries	Pens	Tries in	Overall
1 Bath	29.60 (2)	3.44 (2)	2.73 (4)	100 (1)	2.25
2 Sale	27.40 (3)	3.20 (3)	2.20 (8)	100 (1)	3.75
3 Saracens	27.17 (4)	2.70(7)	3.17 (2)	94 (3)	4.00
4 Newcastle	30.33 (1)	4.00 (1)	2.00 (9)	93 (7)	4.50
5 Leicester	26.87 (5)	2.87 (5)	2.67 (5)	93 (7)	5.50
6 Gloucester	22.41 (8)	2.29 (8)	2.47 (6)	94 (3)	6.25
7 Harlequins	24.38 (6)	2.75 (6)	1.81 (11)	94 (3)	6.50
8 Wasps	21.40 (10)	1.87 (9)	2.67 (3)	93 (7)	7.25
9 Northampton	21.93 (9)	1.87 (9)	3.33(1)	60 (12)	7.75
10 L Irish	20.00 (11)	1.81 (11)	2.44 (7)	94 (3)	8.00
11 Richmond	23.76 (7)	3.11 (4)	1.64(12)	88 (10)	8.25
12 Bristol	15.82(12)	1.47(12)	1.88 (10)	73 (11)	11.25

DEFENCE

This table uses the same principle as for the offence table. Only the categories are different — least points, tries and penalty goals against. The fourth category is the percentage of matches in which the opposition has failed to score a try.

	Points	Tries	Pens	No tries against	Overall
1 Northampton	17.60 (1)	1.87 (3)	1.87 (1)	7(6)	2.75
2 Saracens	18.17 (3)	1.56 (2)	2.35 (5)	17 (2)	3.00
3 Newcastle	17.80 (2)	1.40 (1)	2.80 (10)	13 (4)	4.00
4 Leicester	20.33 (4)	1.87 (3)	2.53 (7)	13 (3)	4.25
5 Bath	20.73 (5)	2.20(8)	2.13 (4)	13 (3)	4.50
6 Richmond	21.59 (6)	1.95(5)	3.05(12)	31 (1)	6.00
7 Sale	25.67 (8)	2.60 (7)	2.73 (9)	7 (6)	7.50
8 Gloucester	24.00 (7)	2.94 (8)	1.88 (2)	0 (10)	7.75
9 Wasps	28.53 (10)	3.00 (9)	2.80 (10)	7 (6)	8.75
10 Harlequins	27.50 (9)	3.13 (10)	2.50 (6)	0 (10)	8.75
11 Bristol	34.58 (12)	4.65(12)	2.00 (3)	6 (9)	9.00
12 L Irish	32.31 (11)	3.88 (11)	2.63 (8)	0 (10)	10.00

LEADING SCORERS

(including Allied Dunbar Premiership and Tetley's Bitter Cup)

POINTS

Pts	Player	T	C	P	DG
301	M Lynagh (Saracens)	5	42	63	1
242	G Rees (Wasps)	1	29	61	1
212	J Stransky (Leicester)	3	31	43	2
210	M Mapletoft (Gloucester)	4	26	44	2
207	N Woods (London Irish)	6	27	41	-
181	P Grayson (Northampton)	3	20	37	5
168	S Mannix (Sale)	1	32	31	2
159	P Burke (Bristol)	2	20	35	2
150	J Callard (Bath)	1	23	29	1
148	R Andrew (Newcastle)	2	27	27	1
*126	T Lacroix (Harlequins)	2	19	24	2

TRIES: 15: D Chapman (Richmond). 13: T Beim (Sale). 10: M Allen (Northampton). 9: W Greenwood (Leicester), C O'Shea (London Irish), D O'Leary (Harlequins). 8: J Naylor (Newcastle), R Wallace (Saracens). 7: J Wright (Richmond), A Nicol (Bath), G Armstrong (Newcastle).

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

Allied Dunbar Premiership: Saracens first to complete double over Bath

Lynagh steps up pressure on Newcastle

Bath 13
Saracens 29

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOW Newcastle know precisely where the threat to their assault on the Allied Dunbar Premiership title will come from. Saracens left the Recreation Ground yesterday, where they had never won before, having become the first side in five seasons of home-and-away fixtures to complete a league double over Bath, the European champions.

Saracens now stand level on points with Newcastle, though deficient on points difference and having played two games more, but the next eight days will be significant ones. Newcastle assault Fortress Kingsholm today and go to Watford next Sunday for their away fixture with Saracens, a match that will attract a record crowd of just under 20,000. "I think it will take English club rugby to new levels," Mark Evans, Saracens' director of rugby, said.

Under lowering skies and on a muddy pitch, Saracens went clinically about the business of inflicting Bath's first league defeat since the two clubs met on December 14.

This was a match Bath were desperate to win, but afterwards Andy Robinson, their director of rugby, graciously acknowledged the qualities of self-belief and defensive resolve shown by Saracens. Yet there was a systematic approach too, which left Bath unable to turn set-piece possession into more tangible rewards.

Never was that more apparent that in the third quarter, when Bath rampaged before the Saracens line but could not break it. They could achieve no more than one penalty from three attempts by Jonathan Callard and retreated to lick their wounds.

There is no better player to control a tight match than Michael Lynagh. His accuracy and perception have frustrated better teams than Bath and, on the treacherous surface, he turned them on their heel time and again. Not only that, he kicked his goals: two penalties in the first half, three in the second, which hammered nail after nail in the Bath coffin.

Bath were impressively efficient in the opening quarter, yet ended it with the modest return of three points. Twice Bath players were over the line, but Ieuan Evans, following his own grub-kick, was judged to have touched down in touch-in-goal and Andy Nicol was denied by the sprawling body of Danny Grewcock. When Saracens were penalised twice in quick succession and a penalty try loomed, Nicol opted for the kick at goal.

This spoke volumes for the commitment of the defenders and gradually their fierce tackling took its toll of the Bath ball-carriers so that, for all the promptings of Jeremy Guscott and Phil de Glanville, Bath's attacks faltered. Guscott, making one of his rare starts at fly half, was never totally subdued, but the space in which he revels was constantly denied him.

Guscott was on hand when Perry found a way through the middle and, although he was stopped, Adebayo swooped for the loose ball and the try — but it was scant reward for their efforts. Gradually, Bath's supremacy at the lineout withered and Saracens struck just before the interval. Johnson strode into space before handing on to Richard Wallace, the Ireland wing taking the outside line before dodging inwards past three defenders for a delightful try.

Robinson described that as the first of the mistakes that cost Bath the game, though that gives less than credit to Saracens. The second "mistake" came midway through the second half after Saracens had absorbed a superbly-sustained period of pressure by Bath, now deprived of the injured De Glanville and attacking chiefly through their loose forwards, which allowed Callard to level the scores.

No one could deny it was a brilliantly-conceived score. Bracken stood off a scrum on halfway and received the ball from Sturnham. The scrum half broke clean through and chipped over Callard. Guscott headed the chase for the ball, but missed completely with an attempted fly hack. Saracens took it on and Pienaar was rewarded with the try.

Enough time remained for Bath to make up the deficit, but they broke on the rock of Lynagh's tactical sense. The Australian, now partnered by Marcus Olsen, once a Bath player, stabbed a series of kicks through, content in the knowledge that Grewcock and Diprose would pressurise Bath's lineout and that his own scrum had the strength to impose itself.

And, of course, Lynagh, infallible throughout, kicked his goals. When he retires, at the season's end, it is hard to conceive that one player will be capable of replicating his all-round talents.

SCORERS: Bath: Try: Adebayo (22min). Conversions: Callard Penalty goals: Callard 2 (14, 48) Saracens: Tries: R Wallace (41), Pienaar (63) Conversions: Lynagh 2. Penalty goals: Lynagh 5 (20, 30, 70, 78, 84)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Bath first): 3-0, 3-3, 10-3, 10-8, 10-13 (half-time), 13-13, 13-20, 13-23, 13-26, 13-29.

BATH: J Callard (rep: I Balshaw, 78min); I Evans, M Perry, P de Glanville (rep: J Pritchard, 54), A Adebayo; J Guscott, A Nicol; D Hilton, M Regan, V Ubogu (rep: J Mallett, 71), M Haag, N Redman, R Earnshaw, R Bryan, E Peters.

SARACENS: G Johnson, R Constable, P Sella, S Ravenscroft, R Wallace; M Lynagh, K Bracken (rep: M Olsen, 66), R Grau (rep: B Reedy, 79), G Chuter, P Wallace; P Johns, D Grewcock, B Sturnham, F Pienaar, A Diprose

Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).



Although Guscott, left, and Hilton try to drag him down, Pienaar gets the ball away to launch another attack for Saracens. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

RACE FOR THE TITLE

Newcastle	15	14	0	1	455	267	28
Saracens	17	14	0	3	462	309	28
Bath	15	11	0	4	444	311	22

NEWCASTLE		SARACENS		BATH	
Today:	Gloucester (a)	April 19:	Newcastle (h)	April 13:	Richmond (a)
April 19:	Saracens (a)	April 25:	Leicester (a)	April 18:	Gloucester (a)
April 22:	Wasps (a)	April 29:	Harlequins (a)	April 25:	Sale (h)
April 26:	Bristol (h)	May 10:	London Irish (h)	April 28:	London Irish (h)
May 4:	Leicester (h)	May 14:	Northampton (h)	May 2:	Northampton (a)
May 10:	Bath (h)			May 11:	Newcastle (a)
May 17:	Harlequins (a)			May 17:	Wasps (a)

BOWLS

Harlow in pursuit of family double

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

THE mixed pairs and fours championships, which traditionally bring the winter season to a close, offer a perennial reminder that bowls is a family game, with many husband-and-wife teams surviving to the final stages of both.

Yesterday, at Lincoln, the leads and skips of seven of the 32 pairs shared the same surname, though only five were married couples, the other two — Barbara and Greg Harlow, from the City of Ely, and June and Alastair Hollis, from Charnwood — being mother-and-son combinations.

Greg Harlow, the Irish Masters champion, is hoping for a second success, having partnered his sister, Joanne, to the title six years ago. When the draw pitted Ely against Charnwood in the opening round, the Harlows were glad to edge home 15-14.

Memories of the recent English men's championships at Melton Mowbray were evoked when Jamie Mills, the national singles champion, partnered Pat Oliver, of South Forest, to a 18-7 first-round win over Bridie and Bill Ward, of Avon Valley.

A second-round defeat by Gateshead for Mills and Oliver leaves them looking for a good win in the last round-robin session this morning if they are to qualify for the quarter-finals.

John Wickham, whose knee condition threatened to curtail his season, is now trotting up and down the green like a two-year-old after a visit to a faith healer and is hoping to add the mixed title to the men's triples that he won last week.

He skipped his Teignbridge clubmate, Ann Bunclark, to a 20-9 victory over Peggy and Ted Hayward, of Worthing, and a 13-9 win over Carol Neave and Malcolm Nicholson, of North Walsham.

The surprise of the opening round was the 16-12 defeat of Mary Price, the woman bowler of the year in 1997, and Brett Long, of Desborough, by Eve East and her partner from Mid Suffolk, Mark Royal, a former British junior champion.

Newcastle's fate in their own hands

BY MARK SOUSTER

FOR all the talk about the possibility of Saracens or Bath winning the Allied Dunbar Premiership, the fact remains that Newcastle are the masters of their own destiny. The league leaders can afford to lose one of their remaining seven games and still take the title, but, with games against both their closest rivals still to come and a demanding run-in over the next four weeks, beginning at Gloucester today, their resilience will be tested to the full.

Kingsholm has been a graveyard for both Saracens and Leicester this season and Gloucester enjoy nothing better than upsetting the odds. If they could replicate even partially their home form when travelling, then they too would be challenging for the title: only three points away from Kingsholm tells its own story.

It is a failing that Richard Hill, the director of coaching, knows he has to address if the club is to translate its obvious potential into something more tangible. However, the possibility of English clubs re-entering Europe in some format as part of a negotiated settlement between the clubs and the Rugby Football Union means that there is every incentive to keep going to the finishing tape.

Not that Gloucester know any different. A full house of 10,000 will ensure a hostile reception for Newcastle, who looked jaded during the second half of their midweek win over Wasps. Pat Lam, their inspirational Western Samoa flanker, believes this was due to the club having had so many players absent on international and representative duty.

"It takes time to gel again, to get back into what we call the Newcastle groove," Lam said. "At training this week, it has been like meeting up with old friends again. Now we are together for the next six weeks and that will really help. We expect a really tough battle at Gloucester and we have to be up for it mentally."

Lam will play today, but the rest of the Newcastle line-up will not be revealed until this morning by Rob Andrew, the director of rugby, who recently spent several days scouring south-west France for new props. Their main doubts concern Va'aiga Tuigamala and Ross Nesdale, who have, respectively, knee and ankle injuries. In the absence of Pete Glanville, who is injured, Gloucester are captained by Tony Windo, the prop forward.

Phil Vickery, the England tight-head prop, has shoulder trouble and is replaced by Andy Deacon, with Steve Ojomoh at blindside flanker for Glanville. Behind the scrum, the England A pair of Chris Catling and Brian Johnson return, the latter after being concussed against Scotland last month.

Leicester, in fourth place, travel to Sale today and are able to name an unchanged side for the first time since October, which means that Michael Horak continues at full back with Austin Healey on the wing and Leon Lloyd among the replacements.

At the foot of the table, Wasps, who have a game in hand on London Irish, can capitalise on the postponement of the Exiles' game at Northampton today by beating Harlequins at Loftus Road tomorrow.

Richmond dazzle in seven-try show

Richmond 43
Bristol 3

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

RICHMOND are an infuriating team. The wildness with which their form has fluctuated this season has perplexed everyone. Yesterday, however, was one of their scintillating days, despite conditions that became almost unplayable by the end.

Much more of the rain that blighted the second half must threaten their game against Bath on Monday. Paradoxically, Richmond's best form coincided with the start of a second-half thunderstorm, the home side cutting loose with three brilliant tries in the 15 minutes after the interval. In so doing, they killed off any hopes that Bristol may have had at half-time of winning the game and condemned the West Countrymen to a record eighth successive league defeat.

The rain just about held off for the first half, but both sides struggled to escape the cloying centre of the field. Neither was helped by a propensity to suffender careless turnovers, particularly Richmond, although their ability at the lineout compensated handsomely.

In the second minute, a dazzling switch at the front of an attacking lineout set Richmond on their way, Barry Williams, throwing in, played a wall-pass off Craig Gillies, jumping at No 2, and then fed Craig Quinnell, looping round, who touched down in the corner.

Williams was picking his men off at will in the lineout, but, from one rare scrappy throw in the twentieth minute, Adrian Davies broke free and fed Hutton, who seemed to knock on in the ensuing tackle. Nevertheless, Bateman was allowed to score after Clarke hacked on.

Quinnell then scored again off an immaculate lineout and drive before Richmond finally worked themselves into space on the firm outside just before half-time. Matthew Pini sliced through the Bristol defence on the left and carried the ball into the Bristol 22. His well-timed inside pass was collected by Dominic Chapman, whose electrifying pace produced a try.

After a half-time deluge, Pini broke again from his own half within a minute of the restart and found John Davies in support. The Wales prop charged into the Bristol 22 and fed his namesake, Adrian, who released Spencer Brown for a sparkling score.

That set the stage for Chapman to clinch a hat-trick of tries, both of the England A wing's second-half scores coming from mis-passes. The first released him on his own 22 and he skimmed over the sodden surface, deceiving three defenders with his pace and change of direction, to score a 70-yard try.

The completion of his hat-trick, in which he showed a similar turn of foot to round off another vibrant passage of play, brought an end to the game's scoring in the 56th minute. Thereafter, handling became well-nigh impossible and the game petered out.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Quinnell 2 (2min, 34), Bateman (20), Chapman 3 (40, 51, 56), Brown (41) Conversions: A Davies 4 Bristol: Penalty goal: Hull (6)

SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond first): 5-0, 5-3, 12-3, 19-3, 26-3 (half-time), 31-3, 38-3, 43-3

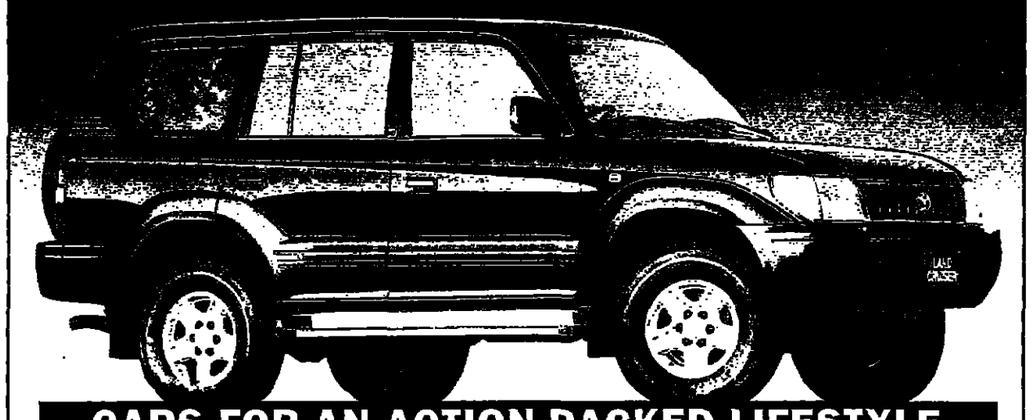
RICHMOND: M Pini, S Brown, A Bateman (rep: E Va'a, 61min), J Wright, D Chapman, A Davies, A Moore; D McFarland (rep: D Crompton, 59), B Williams (rep: A Cuthbert, 68), J Davies, C Quinnell (rep: A Codling, 54), C Gillies, R Hutton (rep: C Palmer, 34), A Vander, B Clarke.

BRISTOL: P Hull, S Jones, S Martin, K Maggs, D Yapp, G Baber, R Jones (rep: M Armstrong, 65), A Poole, F Landreau (rep: K Dunn, 65), K Fullman (rep: J Ring, 65), C Eagle, T Deverge (rep: P Adams, 40), A Charron, D Corkery (rep: J Browning, 54), E Rollit.

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

FOUR TOYOTA LAND CRUISERS TO BE WON



CARS FOR AN ACTION-PACKED LIFESTYLE

Today is your last chance to enter *The Times* competition to win one of four Toyota Land Cruiser Colorados, one of the best 4 x 4s around.

COLLECT SEVEN TOKENS AND YOU COULD WIN:

- a five-door Land Cruiser Colorado GX worth £27,874 on the road
- a three-door Land Cruiser Colorado GS worth £21,039 on the road





We have two of each model to be won, each with one year's road tax plus a three-year 60,000-mile warranty. Terms and conditions were printed on March 23. Prices are correct at time of going to press. If you missed a token this week you can use today's bonus token to enter.

TOYOTA
For your nearest Toyota dealer, call 0800 777 555

THE TIMES/TOYOTA LAND CRUISER PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

Complete this form and attach seven differently numbered tokens from *The Times*. Post it, to arrive by Monday April 20, 1998, to: *The Times*/Toyota Land Cruiser Prize Draw, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7FZ.

Title ..... Initials .....
Surname .....
Address .....
Postcode .....
Day tel .....

1. On which days do you usually buy *The Times*?
Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐
Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐
Don't usually buy The Times ☐
2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?
3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?
4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

Tick if you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times* ☐ Toyota ☐

CHANGING TIMES

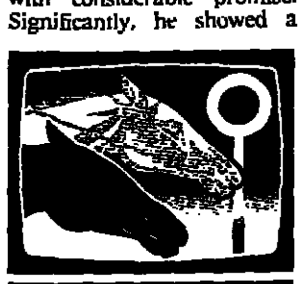
RACING: YORK WINNER CAN SUPPLEMENT HANNON'S FINE RECORD IN EASTER STAKES AT KEMPTON

Gurkha to steal a march on rivals

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

RICHARD HANNON has an excellent record in pre-classic skirmishes at the Kempton Easter fixture. The East Everleigh trainer has won five of the last six runnings of the Milcars Easter Stakes (4.15), a listed race over a mile, and there is every chance he can maintain the momentum today with Gurkha.

The Polish Precedent colt did not make his racecourse debut until August when he lined up for the Yattendon Stakes, one of Newbury's best maiden races, and shaped with considerable promise. Significantly, he showed a markedly rounded action, suggesting he would appreciate soft ground.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

He reappeared 19 days later at York, where the going was soft with heavy patches, and hacked up by nine lengths from Wolfhunt in a fast time, considering the conditions underfoot.

That victory came over six furlongs, but his breeding suggests he should be at least as effective over today's distance and, after recent heavy rain, the going should be perfect for this mudlark.

Chester House, despite a tall home reputation, only scrambled home on his debut at Goodwood last year. He subsequently dead-heated for second, five lengths behind Saratoga Springs, in the Acomb Stakes at York — which makes him the form choice today. But the Henry Cecil- trained Mr Prospector colt is the subject of mixed reports from the Newmarket gallops. Gurkha is preferred, particularly on this ground.

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Chester House, a winner at Goodwood last term, makes his seasonal reappearance in the Milcars Easter Stakes at Kempton today

Hannon also holds sound claims of landing the fillies' trial, the Milcars Masaka Stakes (3.45), with Tadwiga. She went from strength to strength last season, winning the valuable Goffs Challenge at the Curragh on soft ground before finishing off with a close-up second to Name Of Love in the group three Rockfel Stakes, where she stayed on well after no luck in running.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MAGIC RAINBOW
(3.10 Kempton Park)
Next best: Gurkha
(4.15 Kempton Park)

Dazilyn Lady, winner of a useful conditions race at Pontefract and not disgraced in the Lowther Stakes at York, has solid credentials but, being by Zilzal, is far from certain to appreciate the mud. John Dunlop has made a cracking start to the season and Alharir is open to improvement, but there must also be a doubt about the ground for this Zafonic filly.

With the stalls on the stands' side of the straight course, low numbers are likely to enjoy an advantage in the Milcars Ruislip Handicap (3.10), which will count against the well-treated Persiano. Masha-Il did well from a poor draw at Doncaster two weeks ago, but tired in the closing stages and appeared not to see out seven furlongs. John Gosden brings the Danehill colt back to the trip over which he won a Doncaster maiden last term and his fitness advantage should see him go close.

However, Magic Rainbow was pencilled in for this race by Michael Bell after he showed improved form to win a competitive sprint handicap on the fibresand at Southwell 22 days ago. The Magic Ring colt should not be inconvenienced by today's conditions, having won on soft ground at Leicester last season, and Kempton's easy six furlongs should prove ideal.

Horses who record a good performance after a long lay-off often disappoint next time out, which is a concern about Fabillion, whose second to Turnpole at Doncaster 15 days ago gives him sound credentials for the Milcars Queen's Prize Handicap (4.45).

Venetian Scene, fit from hurdling, is an interesting Martin Pipe-trained runner, although she is not guaranteed to see out this trip. It could pay to take a risk with the mud-loving Merit, who is well treated on his impressive success in the Chester Cup two years ago, and is sure to be forward enough to do himself justice.

Rain claims two more meetings

By Our Racing Staff

THE meetings scheduled for Haydock Park and Plumpton this afternoon were called off yesterday because of waterlogging. Newton Abbot and Towcester were abandoned on Thursday.

Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course at Haydock, said: "There are areas on the course which are hopeless. They are not that big but they are significant." Although the fixture has been lost, the Tote Field Marshall Stakes over five furlongs will be moved to Newmarket on Thursday.

Rod Millman, the trainer, will reroute Lord Kintyre, who would have been a leading contender for the race, to Newmarket. "We knew first thing this morning that Haydock was off," the trainer's wife, Louise, said. "We have just changed his training slightly to run five days later."

Plumpton's meeting was called off yesterday, but an improved forecast has raised hopes that Monday's meeting at the course will beat the elements. The clerk of the course, Geoff Stickels, said: "We have abandoned for Saturday but the forecast is for better days in the South East for Sunday and Monday. We are hoping it will dry out in time for Monday's meeting."

EASTER MONDAY PROSPECTS

KEMPTON PARK (Flat meeting, C4, first race 2.00): soft.
NEWCASTLE (mixed meeting, 2.25): soft
NOTTINGHAM (Flat meeting, 2.20): heavy (soft in places). "Couldn't have raced yesterday."
WARWICK (Flat, 2.30): heavy (waterlogged in places). Inspection 9am today.
CARLISLE (National Hunt, 2.15): good to soft (soft in places)
CHEPSTOW (NH, 2.00): heavy
FAKENHAM (NH, 2.30): good to soft (good in places)
HEREFORD (NH, 2.25): course waterlogged. Inspection 9.30am today.
HUNTINGDON (NH, 2.00): course flooded. Inspection 9.30am today.
MARKET RASEN (NH, 2.15): soft (good to soft in places). "No problems at the moment."
PLUMPTON (NH, 2.30): soft. Waterlogged in home straight. Inspection 3pm today.
TOWCESTER (NH, 2.15): course flooded. Inspection 10am today
UTTOXETER (NH, 2.15): heavy.
WETHERBY (NH, 2.15): soft
WINCANTON (NH, 2.00): soft.

Rest of the week

TUESDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Exeter (2.25), Uttoxeter (2.15), Wetherby (2.10).

WEDNESDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Pontefract (2.45), Cheltenham (C4, 2.20).

THURSDAY: Newmarket (C4, 2.05), Ripon (2.10), Cheltenham (C4, 2.20)

FRIDAY: Newbury (BBC, 2.10), Thirsk (2.20), Ayr (2.00).

SATURDAY: Ayr (C4, 1.55), Newbury (BBC, 2.00), Thirsk (2.20), Wolverhampton (7.00), Bangor (2.10), Stratford (2.35).

Flat meetings in bold

Shake Five to profit from fixture disruption

Point-to-point
by Carl Evans

MORE than half of today's programme has been cancelled because of snow and rain and further disruption is likely — a headache for trainers. Heather Dalton, based in Shropshire, said: "We're fed up, cold, and the racing's off — how are we supposed to train racehorses?"

Rolier's win at the Heythrop meeting on Tuesday proved that Dalton is doing a good job, but her star horse, Solba, has been denied a race at the postponed **North Staffs** fixture today. With five victories, he is one of three horses heading the race for the Grand Marnier Trophy, given to the season's most successful point-to-pointer.

Shake Five, a joint-leader, can take advantage by landing the open at the **Puckeridge**, where his stablemates, Scarlett O'Hara, Rob Mine and Rupert's Choice, could all win. Titus Andronicus, the other horse with five successes, won at the Heythrop, taking Heather Irving to 11 victories this season. Titus Andronicus and Solba should be in action on Monday when Butler John, the reigning champion, runs in Cornwall.

Lucky Clover, a stablemate of Butler John, could win the first division of the maiden at today's **Blackmore Vale** fixture, where Richard Barber saddles the impressive Satshoon.

Larkhill stages the **Royal Artillery**, where Shirley Vickery, the national women's champion, rides Funny Farm and Boxcar Bill.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Ashford Valley at Charing 12m E of Maidstone (first race 2.00). Blackmore Vale Charlton Horethorne, 5m NE of Sherborne (2.00). Cotswold Vale (postponed until April 26). Glamorgan (postponed until April 22). Ludlow (postponed until April 19). Middleton (abandoned). N Staffs (postponed until Saturday week). Percy, Alnwick, 3m E of Alnwick (2.00). Puckeridge, Horseheath 4m W of Haverhill (2.00). Royal Artillery Larkhill 4m N of Amesbury (1.00). Vale of Aylesbury Kimble (postponed). Vale of Lune, Whittington 2m S of Kirby Lonsdale (2.00). Woodland Pytchley (postponed).

RACELINE
COMMENTARY RESULTS
0930 168+
KEMPTON 101 201
HAYDOCK 102 202
CARLISLE 103 203
N. ABBOT 104 204
PLUMPTON 105 205
TOWCESTER 106 206
W'HAMPTON 107 207
IRISH 120 220
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER
2.05 Ingenious
2.40 Last Christmas
3.10 Masha-Il
3.45 Tadwiga
4.15 Gurkha
4.45 LITTLE ACORN (nap)
5.20 Bettron

Timekeeper's top rating: 5.20 RUBAMMA.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 INGENIOUS (nap). 3.10 Magic Rainbow. 5.20 Radar.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.05 E B F MILCARS WATFORD MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,453: 5f) (7 runners)

101 (7) BARTHOLOMEW (E Fenaroli) T Naughton 9-0 .... O Peslier –
102 (3) CHAMPAGNE RIDER (Highgrove Developments Ltd) K McAuliffe 9-0 ... J Reid –
103 (5) DILLIONAIRE (J Smith) R Hannon 9-0 .... Pat Eddery –
104 (1) INGENIOUS (Noodles Racing) W Jarvis 9-0 .... J Quinn –
105 (2) SPLIT THE ACES (A Merritt) R Hannon 9-0 .... R Hughes –
106 (4) ZIRCON (Mrs M Vincent) M Channon 9-0 .... R Perham –
107 (6) 0 AEGEAN FLAME 14 (Theobalds Stud) K Ivory 8-9 .... S Sanders –

BETTING: 3-1 Dillionaire, 4-1 Bartholomew, 11-2 Champagne Rider, Zircon, 6-1 Ingenious, Split The Aces, 8-1 Aegean Flame.

1997: WREKIN PILOT 9-0 Dane O'Neill (7-2) R Hannon 6 ran

2.40 MILCARS STANMORE CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £5,168: 1m 2f) (4 runners)

201 (4) 01-1 SCORNED 14 (G) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 9-4 .... S Whitworth 107
202 (1) 1- BENIN 188 (F) (Baron G von Ullmann) H Cecil 8-13 .... K Fallon 96
203 (2) 31- LAST CHRISTMAS 196 (F) (A Shead) B Hills 8-13 .... Pat Eddery [110]
204 (3) 21- MANTUSIS 179 (S) (Romantics) P Harris 8-13 .... O Peslier 103

BETTING: 2-1 Benin, 5-2 Scorned, 3-1 Mantusis, 7-2 Last Christmas.

1997: PALIO SKY 8-10 Pat Eddery (10-11 fav) J Dunlop 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Scorned beat Libra Star 8l in 5-runner stakes at Doncaster (1m, good). Benin beat Rainbow Ways ½l in 12-runner maiden stakes at Leicester (7f 9yd, good to firm). Last Christmas beat The Gene Genie ½l in 12-runner maiden stakes at Haydock (7f 30yd, good to firm). Mantusis beat Ta Arul 1½l in 17-runner maiden stakes at Leicester (1m 8yd, good to soft).

Scorned is a very doubtful stayer and LAST CHRISTMAS can take advantage

3.10 MILCARS RUISLIP HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £5,940: 6f) (19 runners)

301 (10) 11200-0 ELEVENTH DUKE 15 (D,G,S) (Lucayan Stud) R Hannon 9-7 .... O Peslier 103
302 (1) 242201- LEGS BE FRENDLY 166 (B,G) (BABA Racing) K McAuliffe 9-6 .... J Reid 90
303 (3) 531225- HIGH CARRY 191 (F,S) (J M G Promotions Ltd) N Tinkler 9-4 .... C Lowther (3) 106
304 (6) 642361- BEWARE 168 (D,S) (Wyck Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-3 .... A Clark 102
305 (8) 150030- HILL MAGIC 154 (D,F) (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) D Elsworth 9-2 .... R Ffrench 99
306 (9) 415-1 MAGIC RAINBOW 22 (D,S) (P Fenwick) M Bell 9-2 .... M Fenton [114]
307 (13) 40401- SOLO SPIRIT 166 (D,G) (Mrs J Harrison) J Jenkins 9-2 .... A McGlone 90
308 (2) 02100- MRS MALAPROP 164 (BF,G) (M Foy) M Channon 9-0 .... R Hughes 93
309 (7) 031-4 MASHA-IL 14 (BF,D,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Gosden 8-13 .... R Hills 100
310 (19) 010- ROBIN GOODFELLOW 168 (BF,D,S) (M Gough) P Walwyn 8-13 .... Pat Eddery 110
311 (14) 121230- DIM OTS 155 (F,S) (Mrs D Hughes) B Palling 8-12 .... K Fallon 97
312 (16) 422221- BANDBOX 165 (D,G) (Falcon Boys Partnership) M Saliaman 8-11 .... S Whitworth 104
313 (4) 460111- BLISS 191 (G) (W Hankon-Allan) Mrs P Duffield 8-9 .... J Quinn 105
314 (15) 5044- PERSIANO 177 (BF) (Miss A Church) J Fanshawe 8-7 .... D Harrison 93
315 (18) 20125-0 TITAN 9 (G) (J & S Kelly) S Dow 8-6 .... Dane O'Neill 87
316 (5) 3421-0 THEATRE OF DREAMS 31 (F) (N Shields) K Burke 8-6 .... D Sweeney (3) 97
317 (12) 50460-3 MYSTICISM 56 (Mrs C Bulani) C Brittain 8-4 .... M Henry 95
318 (17) 042123- BATCHWORTH BELLE 110 (D) (Mrs D Price) E Wheeler 8-2 .... S Carson (7) 87
319 (11) 000- CLOUDS OF GLORY 166 (N Bryce-Smith) R Charlton 8-0 .... Paul Eddery 76

BETTING: 11-2 Masha-Il, 7-1 Bliss, 10-1 Eleventh Duke, Legs Be Frendly, Beware, Magic Rainbow, Bandbox, 14-1 others.

1997: SUPERCAL 9-7 D Griffiths (16-1) D Elsworth 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Eleventh Duke 5¼l 11th of 22 to Always Alight in handicap at Doncaster (6f, good to soft). Legs Be Frendly beat Rare Indigo ½l in 8-runner stakes at Lingfield (5f, good), previously 23l 12th of 13 to Halmahera in group 3 stakes at Ascot (5f, heavy) with Mrs Malaprop (11lb better off) 35l last. Beware beat Who Nose ½l in 19-runner handicap at Newbury (6f 8yd, good to soft) with Hill Magic (4lb better off) 2¼l 3rd and Robin Goodfellow (6lb better off) 22l 13th. Hill Magic 13l 17th of 22 to Scene in handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to soft). Magic Rainbow beat Branston Berry 1¾l in 13-runner handicap at Southwell (6f, fibresand). Solo Spirit beat Positive Air 2l in 22-runner maiden fillies at Leicester (5f 218yd, good) with Clouds Of Glory (16lb better off) 6½l 8th. Mrs Malaprop 8¾l 8th of 9 to Classy Cleo in handicap at Yarmouth (5f 43yd, firm). Masha-Il 2l 4th of 22 to Julies Jewel in handicap at Doncaster (7f, good). Dim Ots 3½l 8th of 13 to Escobo in handicap at Doncaster (5f, good), previously 1¾l 3rd of 6 to Eleventh Duke (6lb worse off) in handicap at Chepstow (5f 16yd, good to soft). Bandbox beat Double Brandy ½l in 21-runner maiden auction stakes at Leicester (5f 218yd, good), previously 2½l 2nd of 13 to Third Cousin in maiden auction stakes at Folkestone (5f, good) with Batchworth Belle (4lb better off) 12l 12th. Bliss beat Standon ½l in 11-runner handicap at Newmarket (5f, good) with High Carry (7lb better off) 2½l 5th, Solo Spirit (2lb better off) 9½l 9th and Eleventh Duke (11lb better off) 18l last. Persiano 1¾l 4th of 17 to Demolition Jo in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to soft). Titan 5½l last of 20 to Steepless in handicap at Leicester (7f 9yd, soft). Theatre Of Dreams 9¾l 10th of 14 to Krystal Max in handicap at Southwell (5f, fibresand). Mysticism 4¼l 3rd of 7 to Infradobevou in maiden stakes at Lingfield (5f, slow). Batchworth Belle 3l 3rd of 10 to Blue Shadow in handicap at Lingfield (6f, equitrack).

MASHA-IL is certain to improve considerably on this drop back in trip

3.45 MILCARS MASAKA STAKES C4
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £11,269: 1m) (9 runners)

401 (2) 20010- AJIG DANCER 204 (Timberhill Racing Partnership) M Channon 8-8 .... K Fallon 109
402 (8) 315- ALHARIR 212 (F) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-8 .... R Hills 101
403 (7) 432051- ANOTHER FANTASY 224 (C,G,S) (Mrs P & P Jubert) R Hannon 8-8 .... Dane O'Neill 112
404 (4) 21015- DAZILYN LADY 189 (F,S) (M Parker) P Harris 8-8 .... Pat Eddery [138]
405 (5) 26341- FORUM 192 (F) (Wyck Hall Stud) C Brittain 8-8 .... M Henry 97
406 (9) 03-5224 HEVER GOLF PASSION 15 (Hever Racing Club) T Naughton 8-8 .... D Holland 88
407 (3) 031100- JAY GEE 213 (F,G) (J Guest) G Margarson 8-8 .... G Carter 107
408 (6) 04112- SPECIAL TREAT 188 (F,G) (Cheveley Park Stud) G Wragg 8-8 .... A Clark 109
409 (1) 321202- TADWIGA 175 (S) (Stonethorn Stud Farms Ltd) R Hannon 8-8 .... J Reid 108

BETTING: 7-2 Alharir, 4-1 Tadwiga, 9-2 Forum, 5-1 Special Treat, 6-1 Dazilyn Lady, 7-1 Another Fantasy, 10-1 Ajig Dancer, 25-1 others

1997: CALYPSO GRANT 8-8 Pat Eddery (5-2 fav) P Harris 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Alharir 6¾l 5th of 9 to Midnight Line in fillies group 3 stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). Another Fantasy beat Law Library 2½l in 28-runner auction stakes at Curragh (6f, good to soft). Dazilyn Lady 6¾l 5th of 8 to Name of Love in fillies listed stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). Forum beat Freedom Quest 2l in 8-runner maiden stakes at Brighton (6f 209yd, firm). Hever Golf Passion 2¾l 4th of 7 to Welsh Autumn in stakes (listed) at Maisons-Laffitte (1m, heavy). Jay Gee 29l 17th of 18 to Branston Berry in fillies handicap at Doncaster (6f 110yd, good to firm). Special Treat ½l 2nd of 10 to Ikhteyaar in stakes (listed) at Doncaster (6f, good). Tadwiga 1¼l 2nd of 12 to Name of Love in fillies group 3 stakes at Newmarket (7f, good), previously 8¼l 9th of 14 to Regal Revolution in listed stakes at Ayr (6f, good to soft) with Ajig Dancer (5lb worse off) 23l last

TADWIGA has solid form in group company and acts on soft ground

4.15 MILCARS EASTER STAKES C4
(Listed race: 3-Y-O: £11,321: 1m) (4 runners)

501 (1) 12- CHESTER HOUSE 235 (BF,F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-8 .... K Fallon 108
502 (3) 0- DAHOMEY 190 (S Manana) C Brittain 8-8 .... Pat Eddery 75
503 (4) 01- GURKHA 219 (S) (R Russell) R Hannon 8-8 .... Dane O'Neill 107
504 (2) 3135- KRISPY KNIGHT 224 (F) (D Clee) J Hills 8-8 .... R Hills [110]

BETTING: 1-3 Chester House, 11-2 Gurkha, 6-1 Krispy Knight, 20-1 Dahomey.

1997: PELHAM 8-8 Dane O'Neill (6-1) R Hannon 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Chester House 5l 2nd of 9 to Saratoga Springs in stakes at York (6f 214yd, good). Dahomey 7½l 8th of 14 to Daring Derek in maiden stakes at Lingfield (6f, firm). Gurkha beat Wolfhunt 9l in 8-runner maiden stakes at York (6f, soft). Krispy Knight 5l 5th of 8 to Impressionist in group 3 stakes at Curragh (7f, good to soft)

GURKHA loves the mud and should relish the step up in trip

4.45 MILCARS QUEEN'S PRIZE HANDICAP C4
(£10,991: 2m) (14 runners)

601 (13) 123220- LITTLE ACORN 205 (G) (A Simpson) S C Williams 4-9-10 .... O Peslier 87
602 (9) 030320- URGENT SWIFT 72J (F) (A Morton) M Pitman 5-9-9 .... J Weaver 89
603 (1) 16/506- MERIT 154 (D,F,G,S) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 6-9-7 .... T Quinn 87
604 (5) 340/00- IVOR'S FLUTTER 25J (G,S) (W Perry) D Elsworth 9-9-6 .... N Pollard (7) 90
605 (3) 341100- VALAGALORE 175 (F,G) (Mrs A Bourne) B Hills 4-9-5 .... Pat Eddery 102
606 (6) 411432- SUDEST 242 (BF,F) (R Hitchins) I Balding 4-9-0 .... S Whitworth 98
607 (11) 622410- FOREIGN RULE 28J (S) (Mrs S McCarthy) J Jenkins 4-9-0 .... K Fallon [108]
608 (14) 15206/2 FABILLION 15 (G) (B Horton) C A Smith 6-8-10 .... Dean McKeown 85
609 (10) 306/1- VENETIAN SCENE 18J (S) (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 4-8-9 .... G Carter 79+
610 (8) 431050- SEA FREEDOM 255 (V,BF,F,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 7-8-8 .... S Drowne 95
611 (4) 4214-60 VRENNAN 82 (Canisbay Bloodstock Ltd) W Jarvis 4-8-4 .... R Ffrench 90
612 (12) 55230-1 SWING WEST 23J (D) (N Glynn) P Eccles 4-8-4 .... Martin Dwyer 94
613 (7) 704045- KEEN DANCER 14J (Mrs A Farrant) M Pipe 4-8-1 .... J Quinn 105
614 (2) 56210-6 BRIDIE'S PRIDE 7 (S) (K Whale) G Ham 7-7-10 .... J Fowle (7) 94

Long handicap: Bridie's Pride 7-7

BETTING: 5-1 Fabillion, 6-1 Merit, 7-1 Foreign Rule, Keen Dancer, 9-1 Valagalore, 10-1 Little Acorn, Sudest, Venetian Scene, 12-1 Sea Freedom, 14-1 Ivor's Flutter, Swing West, 16-1 others

1997: INCHCAILLOCH 6-9-2 R Ffrench (11-2) J King 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Little Acorn 29l 7th of 10 to Heart of Gold in handicap at Ayr (1m 7f, good to soft), previously 1¾l 2nd of 11 to High Intrigue in handicap at Sandown (1m 6f, good to firm) with Sudest (2lb worse off) 2¾l 3rd. Urgent Swift 37l last of 13 to Top Cees in handicap at Ayr (1m 5f 13yd, good to soft). Merit 9¼l 6th of 16 to Opaque in handicap at Doncaster (2m 110yd, soft) with Ivor's Flutter (2lb worse off) 69l 13th. Valagalore 16l 11th of 31 to Turnpole in handicap at Newmarket (2m 2f, good) with Merit (7lb better off) 21l 13th. Sudest 1l 2nd of 5 to Hullswick in handicap at Bath (2m 1f 34yd, good). Foreign Rule 67l 11th of 14 to Dovedon Star in handicap at Newmarket (1m 6f, good to soft). Fabillion neck 2nd of 13 to Turnpole in handicap at Doncaster (2m 2f, good to soft). Venetian Scene beat Recourse 1½l in 9-runner handicap at Leicester (1m 3f 183yd, good to soft). Sea Freedom 7¾l 10th of 12 to Cloud Inspector in handicap at Goodwood (2m 4f, good to firm). Vrennan 9¾l 11th of 12 to The Butterwick Kid in handicap at Southwell (1m 3f, fibresand). Swing West beat Chabrol 1¼l in 9-runner handicap at Southwell (2m, fibresand). Keen Dancer 7¼l 5th of 12 to Dizzy Tilly in stakes at Windsor (1m 2f 7yd, soft)

SWING WEST can continue the improvement shown for Paul Eccles

5.20 MILCARS TEMPLE FORTUNE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,599: 1m 1f) (10 runners)

1 (4) 1203-43 BETTRON 14 (F) (R Gander) R Hannon 9-7 .... R Hughes 97
2 (5) 00302- GREEN JACKET 176 (I Cameron) J Dunlop 9-3 .... G Carter 90
3 (2) 0100- ADMIRE 168 (S) (Dorchester Racing Club) Miss G Kelleway 9-3 .... K Fallon 89
4 (8) 50021- RADAR 163 (G) (J Sims) M Jarvis 9-1 .... P Robinson 86
5 (9) 043330- RUBAMMA 114 (Mrs P Walwyn) P Walwyn 8-13 .... S Sanders [100]
6 (1) 610- MISTER BENJAMIN 176 (Mrs J Choy) S Woods 8-11 .... N Day 87
7 (7) 605- KONKER 187 (J Wilson) W Haggas 8-10 .... Jo Hunnam (5) 82
8 (10) 043- CHRYSOLITE 166 (A Shead) B Hills 8-10 .... Pat Eddery 84
9 (3) 1000-30 TAKE A TURN 14 (S) (Sheet & Roll Convertors Ltd) M Channon 8-10 .... Paul Eddery 97
10 (6) 000240- SUN LION 163 (BF) (S Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 8-3 .... J Quinn 88

BETTING: 4-1 Bettron, 5-1 Green Jacket, Chrysolite, 6-1 Radar, 13-2 Admire, 8-1 Rubamma, 10-1 Mister Benjamin, Take A Turn, 12-1 others

1997: NORTHERN SUN 9-1 T Quinn (9-1) T Mills 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Bettron 3¾l 3rd of 9 to Moon Gorge in handicap at Warwick (1m, good to soft). Green Jacket 2½l 2nd of 3 to Dog Watch in maiden stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to soft). Admire 30l 12th of 13 to Ffestiniog in fillies listed stakes at Newbury (7f 64yd, good to soft). Radar beat Al's Fella 2l in 8-runner handicap at Nottingham (1m 54yd, good). Rubamma 14l 12th of 16 to I'm Tef in handicap at Southwell (7f, fibresand). Mister Benjamin 38l 26th of 28 to The Glow-Worm in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to soft). Konker 17l 5th of 9 to Dashing Chief in maiden stakes at Pontefract (1m 2f 6yd, good to firm). Chrysolite 7¼l 3rd of 10 to Derryquin in maiden stakes at Lingfield (7f, good). Take A Turn 6¼l 7th of 22 to Julies Jewel in handicap at Doncaster (7f, good). Sun Lion 4¾l 7th of 15 to First Encounter in handicap at Gowran Park (7f, good)

TAKE A TURN should improve for this longer trip

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Charlton	12	57	21.1	R Hughes	11	49	22.4
H Cecil	10	53	18.9	Pat Eddery	37	169	21.9
G Wragg	6	34	17.6	J Reid	25	141	17.7
K McAuliffe	3	19	15.8	T Quinn	28	205	13.7
R Armstrong	5	32	15.6	R Hills	10	80	12.5

□ Thierry Jarnet, the former champion jockey of France, is facing a length lay-off after a paddock accident at Saint-Cloud in midweek. He was flung against the paddock railings and suffered multiple injuries, including four broken ribs.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.15 Callernoy. 2.45 Jack Robbo. 3.15 Son Of Iris. 3.50 Menshaar. 4.20 Ingletonian. 4.50 Warrlin.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 BORDER NOVICES CHASE (£3,306: 3m) (13)

1 33U1 APACHE RAIDER 11 (B,D,G) F Murphy 6-11-6 .... P Carberry 106
2 2213 CALLERNOY 11 (BF,S) D Lamb 8-11-8 .... J Burke [112]
3 FF23 ETERNAL CITY 12 (BF,F,G) G Richards 7-11-8 .... B Harding 109
4 4U51 MAMICA 19 (D,F) M Dods 8-11-8 .... T Reed 97
5 21PP SELDOM BUT SEVERE 42 (B,D,G) E Elliott 6-11-8 .... J Callaghan 99
6 /1F6 SOUNDS FYNE 60 (G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-11-8 .... M A Fitzgerald 80+
7 1-31 CLAIRABELL 115 (D,G) J Charlton 7-11-3 .... B Storey 102
8 0404 FENLOE RAMBLER 28 R Johnson 7-11-2 .... K Johnson 76
9 /PFF HOWYOUDOING 12 S Kettlewell 8-11-2 .... Mr C Bonner (3) –
10 0-5P SEVEN POTATO MORE 31 Sir J Barlow Bt 8-11-2 .... P Niven 69
11 362U SNIPER 23 (BF) F Murtagh 6-11-2 .... J Supple 100
12 133U KRALINGEN 36 (D,S) N Chamberlain 6-10-11 .... S Taylor (3) 86
13 /006 MEADOWBURN 19 (F) W Reed 8-10-11 .... R McGrath (3) 79

6-4 Sounds Fyne, 5-1 Apache Raider, Eternal City, Callernoy, 8-1 others.

2.45 BBC NOVICES HURDLE (£2,612: 2m 1f) (18)

1 0P GIFTBOX 12F N Bycroft 6-11-0 .... B Grattan (5) 67
2 0-50 JACK ROBBO 86 J Fitzgerald 6-11-0 .... M A Fitzgerald 75
3 0/P LINROYALE KING 40 L Lungo 7-11-0 .... Mr B Gibson (7) –
4 03-0 NIZAAL 22 M Hammond 7-11-0 .... N Horrocks (5) –
5 0-05 THE BURGLAR 28 R Goldie 6-11-0 .... B Harding –
6 3-02 THE SNOW BURN 12 T Tate 5-11-0 .... J Callaghan [105]
7 00 TRIX OF THE TRADE 152 G Richards 5-11-0 .... A Dobbin –
8 P0 AUNTY NESSIE 29 J Goldie 6-10-9 .... R McGrath (3) –
9 040P HAMILTON PRINCESS 7F K Hogg 6-10-9 .... M Foster 74
10 34 KISSEL 31 S Kettlewell 6-10-9 .... Mr C Bonner (3) 100
11 LADY ARDER J Birkett 7-10-9 .... M Moloney –
12 3P66 ONE STOP 12 M Barnes 5-10-9 .... S Taylor (3) 97
13 /RFP PIEREX 11 J Charlton 7-10-9 .... B Storey –
14 TACHYCARDIA 128F F Murtagh 6-10-3 .... I Jardine (7) –
15 56 BAWARA 15 L Lungo 4-10-8 .... R Supple 83
16 050S CITY GENT 8 (B) R Woodhouse 4-10-8 .... W Dwan 80
17 0F4F FATHER EDDIE 8 (B) M Sowersby 4-10-8 .... A S Smith 90
18 206 NORMAN CONQUEST 36 M Hammond 4-10-8 .... R Garritty 104

5-2 The Snow Burn, 6-1 Jack Robbo, 7-1 Norman Conquest, Kissel, 9-1 others.

3.15 QUILTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,599: 3m) (13)

1 0610 BETTER TIMES AHEAD 14 (D,S) G Richards 12-11-11 .... A Dobbin 122
2 1P45 SON OF IRIS 15 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-11 .... P Niven 125
3 4PU3 CEILIDH BOY 30 (CD,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 12-11-5 .... B Storey 127
4 1-5P CREDO IS KING 79 (D,G,S) P R Webber 8-11-2 .... R Garritty 116
5 1426 JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 15 (S) Mrs J Storey 11-10-10 .... S Kelly (7) 119
6 3/54 MALAWI 14 (B,D,G,S) W Bethell 8-10-4 .... A S Smith 107
7 P-54 STONEY BURKE 11 (G) Miss L Russell 9-10-2 .... A Thornton 104
8 P-50 TWIN STATES 84 (D,F,G,S) J Turner 9-10-1 .... R Supple 112
9 341F PETER 23 (C,F,S) O Williams 10-10-1 .... B Harding [130]
10 263U SEEKING GOLD 11 (F,G) J Barclay 9-10-0 .... P Carberry 118
11 4423 FARNEY GLEN 18 (D,S) J J O'Neill 11-10-0 .... R McGrath (3) 122
12 PP63 HEAVENLY CITIZEN 12 (D,F,S) J Gledson 10-10-0 .... K Johnson 117
13 P3R0 GOLD PIGEON 24 (S) B Rothwell 9-10-0 .... J Supple 115

3-1 Son Of Iris, 4-1 Peter, 5-1 Better Times Ahead, Ceilidh Boy, 10-1 others.

3.50 CUMMERSDALE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,829: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 040P MARCHANT MING 12 (V,G,S) M Hammond 6-11-13 .... R Garritty 114
2 1036 PALACEGATE KING 43 (C,D,S) A Whillans 9-11-12 .... I Jardine (7) 122
3 13-P GENERAL COMMAND 36 (D,F,G,S) M Todhunter 10-11-12 .... P Carberry –
4 400- JOCKS CROSS 408 (C,F,G,S) G Richards 7-11-10 .... A Dobbin –
5 1F21 MENSHAAR 23 (D,G,S) L Lungo 6-11-9 .... W Dowling (7) 126
6 1310 ARDENT SCOUT 28 (CD,G,S) Mrs S Smith 6-11-7 .... R Guest 127
7 -210 CHERRY DEE 14 (BF,CD,S) P Beaumont 7-11-2 .... B Grattan (5) 127
8 35-2 STORMY CORAL 60 (D,F,G,S) C Parker 8-10-10 .... B Storey –
9 052P DOCKMASTER 23 (G,S) Miss K Milligan 7-10-0 .... L Wyer [128]

5-2 Menshaar, 4-1 Palacegate King, 6-1 Cherry Dee, 7-1 Jocks Cross, 8-1 Marchant Ming, Ardent Scout, 10-1 others.

4.20 SUNDAY CAR BOOT HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,261: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 1254 BURNT IMP 30 (BF,D,F,G,S) G M Moore 8-12-0 .... J Callaghan 127
2 1402 INGLETONIAN 15 (C,D,S) B Mactaggart 9-11-9 .... B Storey 125
3 126- UNCLE BERT 449 (F,G,S) Miss L Russell 8-11-3 .... A Thornton –
4 5432 GAELIC BLUE 32 (D,G) Mrs S Smith 8-11-3 .... R Guest [135]
5 6P23 PARIAH 5 (D,S) M Todhunter 9-11-0 .... P Carberry 122
6 -220 SUPPOSIN 269 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 10-10-13 .... R Wilkinson (5) 128
7 0051 MY MAN IN DUNDALK 30 (C,S) C Grant 9-10-0 .... R Supple 100
8 5452 BITACRACK 52 (CD,F,S) J Birkett 11-10-0 .... L O'Hara 100
9 5P44 CROWDED HOUSE 25 (S) B Ellison 10-10-0 .... R McGrath (3) 99

3-1 Gaelic Blue, 7-2 Ingletonian, 5-1 Burnt Imp, Pariah, 11-2 My Man In Dundalk, 12-1 Supposin, Bitacrack, 16-1 others.

4.50 CURROCK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,612: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

1 23P3 CATHERINE'S CHOICE 12 J Jefferson 5-11-10 .... L Wyer 113
2 412P HURST FLYER 14 (CD F,S) F Murtagh 6-11-8 .... A Dobbin 117
3 6623 QUEENS BRIGADE 12 F Walton 6-11-4 .... B Storey 108
4 5422 AREN'T WE LUCKY 28 J J O'Neill 5-11-2 .... P Carberry 112
5 5523 WARRLIN 28 C Fairhurst 4-11-1 .... A Thornton [125]
6 8211 CRABBIE'S PRIDE 31 (S) Mrs S Smith 5-11-1 .... R Guest 122
7 086 COURSE DOCTOR 31 G M Moore 6-10-11 .... J Callaghan 107
8 404 SEFTON BLAKE 28 M Meagher 4-10-11 .... F Leahy (3) 100
9 -056 BLACK ICE BOY 11F (B) R Bastiman 7-10-6 .... H Bastiman (3) 112
10 054 DISTINCT 30 A Whillans 5-10-0 .... B Harding 104
11 P55 OVER THE BURN 30 B Mactaggart 6-10-0 .... G Lee 110
12 P0P0 NORTHERN FLASH 12 J Haynes 4-10-0 .... S Taylor (3) 99
13 0P-P OTTADINI 151 W Reed 6-10-0 .... R McGrath (3) 90

3-1 Aren't We Lucky, 4-1 Crabbie's Pride, 5-1 Catherine's Choice, 8-1 Hurst Flyer, 10-1 Over The Burn, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 31 winners from 102 runners, 30.4%; J Turner, 3 from 10, 30.0%; G Richards, 27 from 128, 21.1%; J Jefferson, 11 from 56, 19.6%; L Lungo, 16 from 91, 17.6%; J Fitzgerald, 4 from 24, 16.7%; Mrs S Smith, 11 from 72, 15.3%.

JOCKEYS: P Carberry, 13 winners from 39 rides, 33.3%; W Dowling, 3 from 10, 30.0%; P Niven, 27 from 99, 27.3%; B Grattan, 4 from 20, 20.0%; A Dobbin, 24 from 133, 18.0%; L Wyer, 7 from 40, 17.5%; G Lee, 7 from 46, 15.2%; R Supple, 8 from 54, 14.8%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wolverhampton: 7.00 Jo Maximus. 9.00 Mendoza. 9.30 Protaras Bay

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
7.00 Mac's Delight. 7.30 Featherstone Lane. 8.00 James Dee. 8.30 Kierans Bridge. 9.00 Anonym. 9.30 Blooming Amazing.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 ELROND HANDICAP (£2,427: 7f) (12)

1 033- AKALIM 166 (F) L Cottrell 5-10-0 .... A Daly (3) 8
2 0-21 BLUSHING GRENADIER 21 (V,C,F,G) M F-Godley 6-9-10 .... D Sweeney (3) 4
3 5460 VILLAGE NATIVE 10 (C,F) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-10 .... M Roberts 10
4 00-0 SIS GARDEN 14 (CD,F,S) J Gilbert 5-9-10 .... R Mullen (5) 2
5 5623 C-HARRY 14 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-10 .... A McCarthy (5) 6
6 6353 MIKE'S DOUBLE 11 (C) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-10 .... P McCabe (3) 1
7 5430 THE BARNSLEY BELLE 7 (D) J Eyre 5-9-6 .... O Pears 11
8 50-0 JO MAXIMUS 10 (B,D,F,G) J G Smyth-Osbourne 6-9-5 .... R Perham 9
9 2051 POW WOW 35 (CD) E Alston 4-9-5 .... J Fortune 3
10 4335 AXEMAN 14 (F) N Littmoden 6-9-5 .... R Lappin 12
11 3032 RUDE AWAKENING 7 (F) C Fairhurst 4-9-4 .... C Lowther (3) 7
12 000- MAC'S DELIGHT 160 H Akbary 4-9-0 .... G Hind 5

9-2 Rude Awakening, 5-1 C-Harry, 13-2 Village Native, Mike's Double, 8-1 Jo Maximus, Pow Wow, 10-1 Akalim, Axeman, 12-1 others.

7.30 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,206: 5f) (6)

1 1541 FEATHERSTONE LANE 7 (CD,F) Miss L Siddall 7-9-9 .... Dean McKeown 4
2 05-4 LORD SKY 44 (CD,F,S) A Bailey 7-9-3 .... A Mackay 5
3 5300 HANNAH'S USHER 10 (CD,F,G) B Baugh 6-9-1 .... M Roberts 6
4 2064 HEAVENLY ABSTONE 7 (V,D,F,S) P Evans 3-8-11 .... J F Egan 3
5 2113 RISKY WHISKY 10 (B,BF,CD,F,S) J Berry 3-8-10 .... C Lowther (3) 1
6 0022 YOUNG IBNR 7 (BF,D,F) P Evans 3-8-10 .... A McCarthy (5) 2

5-2 Lord Sky, 3-1 Featherstone Lane, 4-1 Young Ibnr, 6-1 Risky Whisky, 13-2 Heavenly Abstone, 7-1 Hannah's Usher

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Woodward, 3 winners from 4 runners, 75.0%; M Johnston, 58 from 262, 22.1%; P Felgate, 9 from 43, 20.9%; M Fetherston-Godley, 3 from 16, 18.8%; P Eccles, 4 from 22, 18.2%; J Pearce, 14 from 79, 17.7%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 62 winners from 292 rides, 21.2%; O Pears, 6 from 35, 17.1%; D Sweeney, 14 from 86, 16.3%; K Fallon, 18 from 114, 15.8%; J Egan, 16 from 106, 15.1%; C Lowther, 13 from 88, 14.8%.

8.00 SHADOWFAX MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,343: 5f) (12)

1 DALLIMORE BANKES W G M Turner 8-10 .... D Sweeney (3) 5
2 55 HADEQA 7 (V) P Evans 8-10 .... J F Egan 11
3 THE DONK B Rothwell 8-5 .... M Fenton 10
4 0 GIFTO WE'RE GONZO 14 Mrs N Macauley 8-3 .... P McCabe (3) 3
5 JAMES DEE A Jarvis 8-3 .... A McCarthy (5) 12
6 MAGIC ROUNDABOUT H Howe 8-3 .... S Drowne 9
7 ZECHARIAH J Eyre 8-3 .... T Williams 6
8 CASHIKI B Palling 8-0 .... J Quinn 2
9 DILETTO E Alston 8-0 .... M Henry 8
10 RED SYMPHONY J Berry 7-12 .... P Fessey (3) 1
11 3 RISKY VALENTINE 4 J Spearing 7-12 .... A Mackay 7
12 TROJAN GIRL N Littmoden 7-12 .... A Whelan 4

5-2 Red Symphony, 6-1 The Donk, 7-1 Risky Valentine, 8-1 Hadeqa, 10-1 others.

8.30 MORDOR HANDICAP (£3,460: 1m 7f) (6)

1 1/21 JARAAB 33 (V,CD) Mrs S Wilton 7-10-0 .... S Whitworth 3
2 400- STAR RAGE 23J (C,D,F,G) M Johnston 8-10-0 .... M Roberts 1
3 2110 NOUFARI 15 (BF,CD,G) R Hollinshead 7-9-12 .... A McCarthy (5) 4
4 10-2 ONEFOURSEVEN 10 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 5-8-12 .... T Williams 5
5 5221 EVEZIO RUFO 4 (B,C,S) N Littmoden 6-8-6 (6ex) .... J Weaver 6
6 -121 KIERANS BRIDGE 14 (C) A Jarvis 3-7-12 .... J Quinn 2

11-4 Noufari, 100-30 Onefourseven, 4-1 Evezio Rufo, 5-1 Star Rage, Kierans Bridge, 8-1 Jaraab.

9.00 SARUMAN SELLING STAKES
(£1,918: 1m 100yd) (9)

1 2406 ANONYM 7 (B,CD,F,G) C Allen 6-9-12 .... A McCarthy (5) 3
2 -210 BONGO 35 (C) P Evans 4-9-12 .... J F Egan 7
3 0400 HEVER GOLF CHARMER 3 (D) B Rothwell 4-9-8 .... M Fenton 5
4 0-40 MENDOZA 39 (B,D) D Murray Smith 4-9-8 .... C Lowther (3) 9
5 3/3- NIGHT TIME 220J R Howe 6-9-8 .... V Slattery 8
6 300- PETUNTSE 187 J Pearce 4-9-8 .... J Weaver 6
7 300- KAYZEE 177J D Burchell 4-9-3 .... M Roberts 4
8 1040 PATINA 10 (D) R Hollinshead 4-9-3 .... P M Quinn (7) 2
9 -006 CHIKA SHAN 43 (V) S Mellor 3-8-7 .... J Quinn 1

2-1 Anonym, 9-4 Bongo, 5-1 Patina, 10-1 Kayzee, 12-1 Mendoza, 14-1 others.

9.30 WARLORD HANDICAP
(£2,950: 1m 1f 79yd) (11)

1 00-1 BANNERET 21 (CD) G Woodward 5-10-0 .... L Newton 9
2 640- NIGHT CHORUS 165 (S) B Rothwell 4-9-7 .... M Fenton 10
3 5224 BLOOMING AMAZING 16 (V,F) J Eyre 4-9-4 .... K Fallon 2
4 -000 KOMASTA 22 (V,C) Mr G Rees 4-8-8 .... A Mackay 4
5 00E- LIGHTNING REBEL 326 P Hiatt 4-8-7 .... Dean McKeown 8
6 00-5 WARNING REEF 7 E Alston 5-8-7 .... Melanie Worden (7) 6
7 6500 COLINS CHOICE 14 (CD) J Spearing 4-8-4 .... P Fessey (3) 3
8 4081 SAKHAROV 8 (F,G) P Eccles 9-8-3 .... A McCarthy (5) 7
9 42-3 PROTARAS BAY 31 (V) P Gilligan 4-7-10 .... N Adams 5
10 -005 NICKER 7 (B) M Waring 4-7-10 .... J Quinn 11
11 3655 OVER THE MOON 14 N Littmoden 4-7-10 .... A Whelan 1

3-1 Blooming Amazing, 7-2 Sakharov, 6-1 Night Chorus, Banneret, 10-1 others.

هكذا من الأصل

نقلاً عن الأصل

Where ponies learn to play The Game

Success on the polo field depends to a large degree on horse and rider striking the right balance

SIMON BARNES

Talking horse



Polo. Nick Williams said, is a game about battle. It was invented for battle, to train warriors for battle, to allow trained warriors to keep their edge in battle. George Orwell said that sport was war minus the shooting. Polo is a cavalry skirmish minus the swords.

Polo is battle. Oh, I thought, it wasn't just me then. Recalling that cavalry skirmish of whirling sticks I had taken part in a few years ago: hopeless at the little matter of whacking the damn ball, I was at least able to ride, and therefore to give opponents a hard time. I could ride, therefore I was at least able to fight.

Dirtiest game I have ever played, and I used to be a goalkeeper in football, too. The horse was first domesticated for battle, not for agriculture or portage. And there, schooling a polo pony with quiet self-possession, Rod Williams, son of Nick, a man who, on the ground, hair tousled by removal of the polo helmet, has the quiet self-confident air of a man who has cut a swath through the Carolines and Arabellas of the polo fields of England.

He was 14 or 15 when I last met him, certainly at an age before one does much about the Arabellas of life, and as perfectly mannered and as charming and as self-confident a lad as the public schools of England are capable of producing.

But then we started playing polo. My dear, the language. I didn't know the public schools taught such terms, still less their accurate deployment. I hadn't heard so much effing and blinding since I was last in a newspaper office. Most of it from little Roddy, but a good bit more from an Argentine four-goaler who had picked up the lingo very nicely. Oh, and me. I felt it my duty to contribute.

"Very calculating player these days," his father said. People do calm down, some of them, anyway. "Not so wild as he was." Rod is a professional player these days, playing off six goals (that means really rather good), more Hoddle than Gazza.

And there he was, at his father's place, the Inglesham Polo Centre, preparing horses for the season that is almost upon us. He was schooling a new horse, unused to The Game. ("I don't race," the Maltese Cat, the polo pony in the Kipling story, said. "I play The Game.") Rod was passing the mallet up and down, around and around while the horse watched it with wary eyes. But unmoving, even though it is a horse's nature to shy and spook at such things. A polo pony must learn to work against his nature.

But only in that way. All that stopping and turning, horses do it naturally. The trick is to get them to do it when a human asks. That is why the schooling matters, why it is so intriguing to witness. Polo is in a sense the most natural of all the horsey sports; in another the most artificial. But that is true in some measure of all of them.

Is it possible to explain the sheer bliss of riding a beautifully-schooled polo pony? You look over your shoulder, and the horse, following your gaze, spins like a top on its own hocks. It feels just a little bit like a miracle. As you turn your body to look, so the pony feels, reads and understands the movements of your body. And merrily wheels beneath you.

Balance. That is the essence of it all: balance simple and balance complex. You need the balance of the human on the horse and the balance of the horse on the ground. But especially, you need the balance between the two species of mammal involved. It is not exactly mystical: hard to think of a more physical business, really.

"You're carrying a child on your shoulders through an orchard," Nick said. "And the child reaches out to grab an apple. What do you do? Do you let the child fall? Do you fall flat on your face? No. You move beneath the child, to keep his weight on your shoulders."

And that, he says, is how a polo pony treats his rider. Polo ponies are famous for being responsive. They should be famous for being responsible. A polo pony knows how to look after you.

It comes partly from schooling, partly from nature. That is true of all horsey disciplines from racing to dressage. And there was Simon Coddington, Nick's assistant, schooling horses ready for the new season; on a grey horse with large black spots, a horse that was delighting him. "Very clever," he said. A kind animal who listened and didn't need telling twice.

I have always loved these moments before the big event is upon us, or before the season starts, the times when all is promise and hope: boxing gyms rich with the stench of hope; April cricket nets eager with new banter; the training field at Bisham Abbey before a football international.

And in the horsey world, the stable yard has something that the race, the match, the event can never quite equal. Which is a future. These moments, these days and weeks of preparation have something that not even the magic moment of victory can touch — that glorious sense of what-happens-next.

The polo ponies learn to do the stopping and spinning and the flying changes at their riders' request. Out in the arena, where the newish discipline of arena polo — rather like five-a-side football — is the latest boom sport, the horses are being schooled with nonchalant work with stick-and-ball: learning to enjoy the kickabout before they are hardened for battle.

Enviable to watch, the easy swing of the stick, the effortless, certain middling of the ball. Practice is in a way more vivid than competition — the understated skills are so much easier to follow and to comprehend.

"You get a bunch of people, children, any kind of novice riders, and they are tense and concentrating on what they are doing and falling off and so on," Nick said. "And then you give them all sticks and ball and they forget about all their worries. They just ride. I had a group from the Territorial Army the other day. Most couldn't really ride when they came. They left after they had all taken part in the most tremendous game of polo."

And that, in a single yarn, is the heart and soul of it. You don't worry about the horse, you worry about the ball and the goal. That is polo's strength, and its weakness. You ride the horse with something aside from thought. In other horsey disciplines, where the horse is the end rather than the means, you ride with something beyond thought.

Is that fair? Probably not. Says more about me than about polo. It is just that when I am on a horse, I think about the horse. Not a ball; still less an opponent. I prefer whisky to brandy as well.

The horsey world is full of hermetically-sealed compartments. All horsey people think their own discipline is the supreme discipline; that all other horsey disciplines are but pale shadows of the real thing. All foreign horsey disciplines completely miss the point of what people and horses are really all about. All horsey people are just like the Maltese Cat, and think of their game as The Game.

But there is another bit of Kipling that sums up the eternal divisions of the horsey world: "There are nine thousand ways of constructing tribal lays, And-every-single-one-of-them-is-right!"



With the new season imminent, the father and son team of Nick and Rod Williams get a pony used to the stick-and-ball routine at the Inglesham Polo Centre. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Omagh, Cliftonville v Unifield; Coleraine v Ards; Crusaders v Glenavon. Portadown v Glentoran. First division: Bangor v Dungannon Swifts, Carrick v Lame, Limavady Utd v Distillery, Newry v Ballyclare

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division. Derry v Dundalk (7.30), Shelbourne v Sligo (7.0)

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: *Premier division: Almondsbury v Carterton;* Banbury v Hallen, Bicester v Tuffley, Oldord v Shortwood, Endsleigh v Kintbury, North Leigh v Abingdon, Swindon Supermarine v Cirencester, Wantage v Highworth

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Town v Bedlington Mariners, Consett v Crook, Durham v Billingham, Easington v Morpeth, Penrith v Dunston Federation, RTM Newcastle v Guisborough, Stockton v Northallerton, Tow Law v Murton

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Canterbury, Cornthan v Erith, Deal v Beckenham, Greenwich v Hythe, Herne Bay v Thamesmead, Ramsgate v Folkestone Invicta, Sheppey v VCD, Tonbridge Green v Cray, Tunbridge Wells v Whitstable Town

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Backwell v Tormgton; Bridgwater v Taunton

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE Premier division south: Amersham v Hanwell, Barkingside v Chesham, Brimsdown v St Margaretsbury, Harefield v Brook House, Hillingdon Boro v Hanwell, Islington v Wingfield, Ruislip Manor v Waltham Forest. Premier division north: Aylesey Utd v Milton Keynes, Bedford v Royston, Buckingden v Buckingham Athletic, Cheshunt v London Colney, Letchworth v Hoddesdon, Potters Bar Town v Stotfold, Welwyn Garden v Biggleswade, Welwyn Garden v Wellingborough

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich v Gillingham (11.0), Norwich v Portsmouth (11.0), Watford v Southend (11.0) Second division: Bournemouth v Colchester (11.0), Oxford Utd v Reading (11.0) Wimbledon v Southampton (11.0) Wycombe v Luton (11.0)

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Carshalton v Lensbury; *Old Salesians v Old Tonbridgians,* NatWest Bank v Alexandra Park, Old Bromleans v Broomfield

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Huntly, Deveronside v Mechanics v Fraserburgh, Inverness Thistle v Nairn County, Peterhead v Lossiemouth, Wick Academy v Wilham Rothes v Elgin

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Reading Town, Bedfont v Westfield, Chipstead v Camberley, Chessington and Hook v Chertsey, Farnham v Ashford, Godalming v Guildford, Raynes Park Vale, Hartley Wintney v Netherne, Viking Sports v Farnborough

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Burscough; Blackpool Rovers v Haslingden Darwen v Chorley, Colliers, Glossop North End v Prescot Cables, Kidsgrove v Salford, Mossley Town v Clitheroe; Ramsbottom v Skelmersdale United, Rossendale v Mossley, St Helens v Holker Old Boys, Warrington v Widnes GM

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division, Bowers v Hullbridge Sports, Brentwood v *Basildon U*, East Ham v Southend Manor, Sawbridgeworth v Stansted.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Malvern T; Cradley Town v Tividale; Gornal A v Ettingshall, Stourport S v Bustleholme; Walsall Wood v Kington Town, Westfields v Ludlow T, Wolverhampton C v Darlaston, Wolverhampton v Lye Town

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss v Harwich and Parkeston; Ely v Bury Town; Felixstowe P and T v Histon, Great Yarmouth v Woodbridge Town, Newmarket v Gorleston, Soham v Clacton, Stowmarket v Sudbury Wanderers; Sudbury Town v Fakenham, Tiptree v Wroxham, Warboys v Halstead.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Buckingham, Cogenhoe v Mirrlees Blackstone; Eynesbury v Holbeach; Ford Sports v Spalding, Long Buckby v Bourne, Potton v Wootton, *Stamford v Northampton Spencer*, Wellingborough v S and L Corby.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Arundel, Hailsham v Wick, Littlehampton v Horsham YMCA, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Chichester, Ringmer v Selsey, Shoreham v Langney Sports, Whitehawk v Saltdean

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Shifnal T, Boldmere St M v Oldbury, Bridgnorth v Rocester, Chasetown v Willenhall, Stapenhill v Bloxwich Town, Stratford T v Kings Norton, Wednesfield v Pershore T, W Mid Police v Knypersley V

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Barnsley v Leeds (11.0), *Sheffield Wednesday v Derby* (11.0) Sunderland v Chelsea (11.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Gloucester v Newcastle (2.15)
Northampton v London Irish
Sale v Leicester

Second division

Blackheath v Orrell
Exeter v Wakefield
Fylde v London Scottish
Moseley v Coventry P
Rotherham v Bedford
Waterloo v West Hartlepool

Jewson National League
First division

Liverpool St Helens v *Rugby*
Lydney v Reading
Newbury v Nottingham
Otley v Morley
Rosslyn Park v London Welsh
Wharfedale v Harrogate
Worcester v Leeds P

Second division north

Hinckley v Stourbridge
Lichfield v Sedgley Park
Nuneaton v Preston Grasshoppers P
Sandal v Manchester
Sheffield v Kendal
Walsall v Birmingham/Solihull P
Winnington Park v Aspatria

Second division south

Cheltenham v Redruth P
Esher v North Walsham
Henley v Bridgwater
Metropolitan Police v Clifton
Plymouth v Havant
Tabard v Camberley
Weston-super-Mare v Barking

THWAITES NORTH: First division: Brdlington v Broughton Park, Doncaster v Stockton, Middlesbrough v Tynedale; Widnes v *New Brighton*; West Park Bramhope v Wigton.

MIDLANDS: First division: Banbury v Scunthorpe; Barkers Butts v Wolverhampton; Belgrave v Whitchurch, Broadstreet v Wellsleigh; Burton v Syston, Camp Hill v Stoke-on-Trent; Derby v Kenilworth; Hereford v Mansfield

SOUTH WEST: First division: Berry Hill v Stroud; Launceston v Maidenhead, Matson v Gloucester Old Boys, Penzance and Newlyn v Bracknell; Torquay v Barnstaple

Swalec Cup
Quarter-finals

Ebbw Vale v Swansea (6.0)
Newport v Pontypridd (2.30)
Seven Sisters v Garndiffaith (2.30)

Welsh League
First division

Blackwood v Treorchy (2.30)
Bonymaen v Maesteg (2.30)
Caerphilly v Cardiff Institute (2.30)
Cross Keys v Merthyr (2.30)
Llandovery v Dunvant (2.30)
Pontypool v Newbridge (2.30)
Rumney v Abertillery (2.30)
South Wales Police v Aberavon (2.30)

SECOND DIVISION: Narberth v Ystradgynlais, Tenby Utd v Mountain Ash

Tennents Premiership
Division 3B

Glasgow Southern v Stewarny

Tennents Velvet Cup
Quarter-final

Stirling County v Currie

TENNENTS VELVET BOWL: Quarter-finals: Morgan Acad FP v Ross High, Strathmore v Cartha QP

AIB League
First division

Blackrock College v Cork Constitution (2.30)
Dolphin v Lansdowne (2.30)
Dungarvon v Clontarf (2.30)
Garryowen v Ballymena (2.30)
Old Belvedere v St Mary's College (2.30)
Terenure College v Shannon (2.30)
Young Munster v Old Crescent (2.30)

Second division

DLSP v UCC (2.30)
Derry v Bective Rangers (2.30)
Greystones v Skerries (2.30)
Instonians v Sunday's Well (2.30)
Malone v Galwegians (2.30)
Old Wesley v Monkstown (2.30)
Wanderers v Buccaneers (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: *Premier division:* Beverley v Dudley Hill; Egremont v Walney Central, Haworth v Askam, Mayfield v Leigh Miners, Oldham St Anne's v *Saddleworth*; West Hull v Wigan St Patrick's. First division: Barrow Island v Leigh East; Blackbrook v Millom; Moldgreen v Eastmoor, Oulton v Millord, Skirlaugh v Redhill; Wigan St Jude's v East Leeds. Second division: Eccles v Normanton; Featherstone Amateur v Dodworth, Hull Dockers v New Earswick; Siddal v Ovendon

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT (at The Stadium, Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes HC): Boys: Under-18: Scotland v Germany (12.30), England v Holland (1.0). Under-16: France v Scotland (2.0), England v Spain (3.0). Girls: Under-18: Scotland v Germany (9.0), England v Spain (11.0) Under-16: England v France (10.0), Scotland v Holland (4.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: British lightweight championship: W Rigby (Manchester, holder) v M Brown (Walworth) (at the Elephant & Castle Centre, London).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser championship: Play-offs, first leg: Derby Storm v Birmingham Bullets (7.30); Thames Valley Tigers v Sheffield Sharks (8.0).

MOTORCYCLING: World superbike championship: third round (at Donington Park)

SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Coventry v Swindon (7.30); Eastbourne v Ipswich (7.30). Premier League Cup: Berwick v Sheffield (7.0). Stoke v Glasgow (7.30)

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Harlequins (3.0)

Swalec Cup
Quarter-final

Neath (2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB Super League

Bradford v Leeds (6.35)

HOCKEY

EUROPEAN SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT (at *The Stadium*, Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes HC): Boys: Under-18: England v Scotland (11.30). Under-16: England v Holland (1.0) Germany v England (2.0). Girls: Under-18: England v Holland (11.0), Scotland v Spain (3.0). Under-16: England v Holland (3.0), Scotland v Spain (5.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser championship: Play-offs, first leg: London Towers v Newcastle Eagles (5.0)

CYCLING: Thames Velo 117km road race (at Great Milton, Oxfordshire, 1.0)

MOTORCYCLING: World superbike championship: third round (at Donington Park).

MOTOR RACING: British touring car championship (at Thruxton).

SNOOKER: British Open (at Plymouth Pavilions)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League Cup: Glasgow v Sheffield (6.30), Newport v Reading (6.30), Newcastle v Stoke (6.30).

ATHLETICS: McCOLGAN'S PREPARATIONS PUT HER AT DISADVANTAGE IN BALMORAL CHALLENGE

Radcliffe well primed for battle royal

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GIVEN that the venue is Balmoral Castle, one can almost hear the cry. "The Queen is dead. Long live the Queen." However tempting that may be if Paula Radcliffe defeats Liz McColgan in the Balmoral *Highland Challenge today*, it would also be unfair.

The race distance, five miles, is more suited to Radcliffe's recent training than to McColgan's, yet it is impossible to escape the conclusion that, in comparing these two jewels in the crown of British women's distance running, one is gaining in sparkle, the other losing.

When Radcliffe relieved McColgan of her long-standing British 10,000 metres record last Saturday, it was the latest in a string of impressive performances from the Bedford and County athlete in the past 13 months. They include finishing runner-up twice in the world cross country championships, setting a British and Commonwealth 5,000 metres record and only narrowly missing a medal at 5,000 metres in the world championships.

By contrast, McColgan, who, at 33, is nine years Radcliffe's senior, has not produced a run that has impacted on the national consciousness since the Flora London Marathon, a year ago this weekend. On that occasion, McColgan lost, but only after an epic battle with Joyce Chepchumba, of Kenya.

Since then, McColgan has lost her unbeaten record in the Great North Run, taken fourteenth place in the Tokyo Marathon and finished so far behind Catherina McKiernan in a half-marathon last month as to suggest she has little chance of beating the Irishwoman in the London Marathon on April 26. If there is to be a Scottish challenge to Radcliffe today, it may come from Yvonne Murray.

Murray has not raced for five months, though. She has been putting in the training as background for her first attempt at a marathon towards the end of this year. In the meantime, it is uncertain whether she will defend her Commonwealth Games 10,000 metres title in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Such are the standards that Radcliffe sets herself that she was not wholly satisfied by cutting almost nine seconds from McColgan's 1991 British record with her 30min 48.58sec in Lisbon. "I enjoyed it, it was good," Radcliffe reflected, soberly, as she arrived at Balmoral.

Why not ecstatic? "Well, I would have liked to have won the race as well," Radcliffe added. Fernanda Ribeiro, of Portugal, the Olympic champion, ran a personal best to beat Radcliffe in a close finish.

The distance today, when *Grandstand* screens what it believes is the first televised sports event in the grounds of the Queen's summer residence, is in keeping with Radcliffe's recent races. It is asking a lot of McColgan to find the speed to match Radcliffe after a critical phase of marathon training.

"The distance is definitely in my favour," Radcliffe said. "Liz is getting ready for the marathon, but, having said that, she is coming up to her competition whereas I have gone past mine." This is Radcliffe's last race before she takes a break. For McColgan, it will not matter if the jewel is dull today, as long as it glitters in London.



McColgan, left, may find five miles too short, while Radcliffe will relish the distance

Sri Lankan sprinter banned

THE leading Sri Lankan athlete and Asia's fastest woman, Susanthika Jaya-singhe, has been suspended after testing positive twice for performance-enhancing drugs. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) told the Sri Lankan Amateur Athletics Association that a urine B sample taken last month contained traces of Nandrolone, a banned steroid.

The IAAF rejected an explanation by the runner after her first sample, taken during random testing of athletes training for the 2000 Olympic Games, also tested positive last month.

"Her explanation was not accepted by the IAAF and we have therefore decided to temporarily suspend her pending an official inquiry," Rohan Amarasinghe, the Sri Lankan AAA secretary, said.

Jayasinghe, who won the 200 metres silver medal at the world championships in Athens last year, claimed the samples had not been sealed properly and accused Sri Lankan Sports Ministry officials of tampering with them.

☐ Hiromi Suzuki, of Japan, the winner of the women's marathon at the world championships last year, has withdrawn from the Flora London Marathon on April 26 because of a foot injury.

COMPANY GOLF DAYS
RESULTS

TITLE SPONSOR Mees Pierson

The four top scorers in the individual Stableford competitions played on the company golf days listed below now comprise the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Adjusted Score
22 SEP	COMPUTING SERVICES & SOFTWARE ASSOCIATION J MARTELL 37 *S PRICKETT 33 *C MURRIMOR 37 *J BOYLE 35	WENTWORTH	147
23 SEP	BOND PEARCE SOLICITORS M STIMSON 36 *J MILNE 34 *J BUTT 34 *E HOY 34	CRANE VALLEY	128
23 SEP	SAFETYNET PLC A PRICKETT 34 *K WILSON 35 *B BENNET 36 *J HANNON 35	BEACONSFIELD	136
23 SEP	NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY M RINGLAND 35 *M WRIGHT 37 *C DONELLY 36 *J COLGAN 35	ROCKMOUNT	138
23 SEP	DAVID MACAULEY CHARTERED SURVEYORS D MACAULEY 36 *D MATHERS 36 *A BORTON 34 *G MARSLAND 33	KNOTT END	134
25 SEP	SETON HEALTHCARE GROUP PLC B DUANE 39 *I ROSS 36 *W MORGAN 41 *A HAWKEN 36	MERE	154
26 SEP	NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY A DAVIES 31 *R COX 32 *R KEYS 29 *L BUCHANAN 25	BOWOOD	104
2 OCT	FLOORING SOLUTIONS LTD S WOOD 34 *D MILLER 35 *S EDGE 34 *T JOYCE 32	LANCASTER	121
2 OCT	BRACHERS SOLICITORS G DEARING 31 *R SHOTTON 36 *C MORGEN 33 *A BETTS 32	MOATLANDS	124
31 DEC	ANGLO HOLT CONSTRUCTION LTD A BLY 39 *A WYCOCK 37 *D MERRITT 35 *M FARMER 33	LITTLE ASTON	148
1998			
18 MAR	SOFTBOND ENGINEERS S CLARKE 31 *C STAMFORD 35 *P HEIGHWAY 33 *B GREAVES 33	PENN	128

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS
CITROËN
strokesaver.
GOLFING
GOLF MONTHLY

For event details you can either:
1 TELEPHONE 0171 405 7273
2 FAXBACK ON 0660 600664
3 ACCESS THE GOLF TODAY INTERNET SITE ON

National Final shown on sky sports

Jalabert's clear run falls short of overall victory

BY PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN pulled out of the final day of the Tour of the Basque Country in Spain yesterday, dashing hopes that the Briton might win his speciality event, the closing 25-mile time-trial. Boardman, the world one-hour record-holder, now plans to take a brief break from racing to try to recover completely from a viral infection that has dogged his early season.

Inigo Cuesta, from Spain, held on to become the overall race winner, despite losing the time-trial to Laurent Jalebert, the world No 1 from France, who had started it 51sec in arrears. In a desperate last five kilometres, Cuesta pulled back on the impressive lead that Jalebert had established to win the race overall by 3sec.

Alex Zülle, from Switzerland, who beat Boardman and Tony Rominger to the world time-trial title two years ago, finished third overall yesterday, 1min 36sec behind Cuesta.

The Good Friday international meeting at Herne Hill, in London, which traditionally opens the British outdoor track season, was cancelled yesterday, four hours after its scheduled starting time. Officials carried out two inspections before deciding that the continuous rain made the track unsafe for racing.

The last occasion that rain prevented the meeting from being held was in 1993. Unlike that year, the organisers yesterday confirmed that there were no plans for an alternative date later in the season.

For some home riders, their regret was tinged with a feeling of relief; it meant, for example, that Rob Hayles and Matthew Illingworth, his Team Brite colleague, had time to spare before they line up today for the start of the Girvan three-day road race in Ayrshire, where Hayles defends his 1997 overall victory.

CYCLING: PARIS-ROUBAIX RACE PROVIDES UNRELENTING TEST IN NORTHERN FRANCE AND BELGIUM

Taxing ordeal for even the greatest

Jeremy Whittle looks back at some of the more bizarre incidents in an event strictly for the brave

There may be mile upon mile of broken cobblestones to negotiate and the constant threat of crashes, punctures and fractured bones to contend with, but then it is the cruel and unforgiving nature of the Paris-Roubaix cycle race that makes victory especially prized.

Success in a brutal event, known as the "Hell of the North", guarantees a rider lasting fame. No matter what other trials and tribulations he may suffer, to be acclaimed in Roubaix's old velodrome places him among the legendary figures of the sport.

Since the race was first run in April 1896, with just 51 riders, it has become recognised as the roughest and toughest one-day event of the year. Even with modern suspension systems and more resilient equipment, the 265-kilometre classic remains a lottery.

Although loved and loathed in equal measure by modern professionals, they know that the race is a barometer of a champion's greatness. Eddie Merckx, winner on three occasions, loved it, but Bernard Hinault, like Merckx a five-time Tour de France champion, considered the event to be a cruel and archaic farce.

Under pressure from the French media, Hinault finally won in 1981, although his chances were almost ruined after he swerved and crashed while avoiding a stray dog. Having proved his point, the Breton never lined up at the start again.

While motorway networks and TGV lines south of Lille have eradicated many of the old farm tracks that were in use 102 years ago, there are still enough sections of ruptured cobbles, or *pave*, to test the resolve of the most hardened professional.

In the early days, Paris-Roubaix attracted a mixture of mavericks and opportunists who would have been lost among the tactical complexities of present-day racing. On heavy, single-geared, bone-shaking machines, they would push and shove their way over the muddy cobbles, a bottle of wine stuffed into a pocket of their twill jackets and a chunk of bread and pâté strapped to the handlebars.

It was in the early 1920s, when the route ran among the trenches and shell holes of a war-torn landscape, that the race came into its own. Betting on it was rife and, with big money involved, spoiling tactics became commonplace. Nails were thrown into the path of some of the favourites, while others were pulled from their bikes and their machines stolen or smashed.

Perhaps the most bizarre mishap befell Georges Passerieu in 1907, when, with victory in sight, he was stopped close to the finish and asked to produce evidence of payment of taxes by an overzealous gendarme. Luckily, the baffled Passerieu still had enough of an advantage to secure final victory. These days, the mixture of dung and mud thrown up from the ruptured roads and sardonically referred to by the riders as "Belgian toothpaste" is one of the few things that connect the elite with their pioneering predecessors.



Museeuw: 1996 winner and favourite tomorrow

The favourite for this year's race is Johan Museeuw, of Belgium, now dominating one-day racing much as Sean Kelly, of Ireland, did in the 1980s. Like Kelly, twice a winner in Roubaix, Museeuw's muscular style is suited perfectly to the brutal conditions of the *pave*.

Museeuw, who won the Tour of Flanders last weekend with a bold solo attack, won Paris-Roubaix two seasons ago, but that long-awaited success was tainted by a bitter public row within his team. When Museeuw found himself clear of the shattered field with two of his Italian teammates, a full-scale argument ensued — captured by television and radio crews following on motorcycles — as the trio disputed which of them should be "allowed" the honour of crossing the finishing line first.

Not surprisingly, it was the assertive Museeuw, a former world champion and the team leader, who took the chequered flag — but only after threatening his two team-mates with redundancy. One of them, Gianluca Bortolami, left Museeuw's Mapei team soon after and has barely spoken to the Belgian to this day.

That begrudged success has dogged Museeuw ever since, but, at 32, his present ferocious form and unparalleled experience offer him the chance to set the record straight. Nevertheless, the pitfalls and potholes are sure to play a part in the final outcome.

There may no longer be flocks of sheep, stray horses or even overzealous tax inspectors barring the field's path, but tomorrow's champion will still have to master all of the singular demands posed by of one of European sport's most extraordinary events.



Cobbles and flooded cart-tracks help to make the "Hell of the North" a pitiless test of both rider and machine. Photograph: Pascal Rossignol

CRICKET

Brinkley earns surprise chance

BY KEVIN FERRIE

JAMES BRINKLEY, who was released by Worcestershire last season, has been given an unexpected chance to play in the World Cup next year.

Brinkley, who was raised in Australia, made a spectacular start to his first-class career three years ago when he claimed six wickets for Worcestershire against Surrey at the Oval. However, he was unable to command a regular first-team place.

Brinkley was born in Helensburgh, Scotland, but moved to Australia when he was a year old. On leaving Worcestershire, he contacted Jim Love, the Scotland director of cricket, to advise him of his availability and he has now been included in the Scotlandsquad for their trip to Durham next weekend, where they are preparing for the forthcoming Benson and Hedges Cup.

"I think this could be the turning point of my career," he said. "The prospect of playing for my country is tremendously exciting, especially when one of our later Benson and Hedges Cup matches is against Worcestershire at New Road. It does seem a bit bizarre, though, that my failure to make it with the county has opened up a chance to play in the World Cup."

By earning a World Cup place, he would have the chance to perform against Australia, his adopted homeland, who will play Scotland at Worcester in the early stages of the tournament.

In the meantime, he is keeping up his Helensburgh connection by practising with Essex, where Peter Such, who was also born in the Dunbartonshire town, has been a stalwart for many seasons. However, Brinkley said that his priority is to play for Scotland. "Even if Essex were to offer me a deal, Scotland would come first," he said.

ALFA ROMEO

2.0 SPIDER. 96P. 9K mls. FSH. Green. Windblock. Tonneau cover. £20,750. 0973 101472.

GTV 2l Lusso, 96P, 21,000 miles, Tropical Green, Black leather. £18,795ono. 01908 217999 (office) 0370 626173(mobile)

GTV Lusso, 96P, Black met, 1ltr, A/C, 21k, as new. Beautiful Reluctant sale. £18,850. 01908 261234(W) 01908 262847(H)

SPIDER Lusso '96 P, stnlss btwe, 1ltr, air cons, alloys, 10K mls, as new. £21,500. 01707 664493.

SPIDER GTV, Immaculate, 2 reg, 13,500 mls, Silver. £19,995. 0467 307166 or 01629 57494

Brand new Alfa 156, 145/6, GTV. Spider & Fiat Coupe. Save up to £3,700. As seen on Top Gear. ACC: 0181 6601520.

ASTON MARTIN

1979 V8 Oscar Indis FSH Jubilee Silver. MoT Tax Immaculate £23,950. 01273 508496.T

VIRAGE auto, May 90, 22K mls, Buckingham Green. Tax Mar. 245K. Call Simon Hester 01403 753131 O/hrs only(Tues-Fri)

DB7 Coupe Auto(P65H), Malvern Silver, MoT, Sunroof/Parchment leather, CD stack, Alisso alloys, 27k miles, 1 owner. Private. £61,000. 01732 882868(H) or 0171 982 2631(W)

OSCAR Indis V8 Auto, 1980, Dark blue pnt, 79k, Cream hide. £21,000. 0181 946 2382.

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

Approved Audi

Audi S2

984 S2 Coupe Quattro Emerald. Alloys, ABS, Sunrf, E/Windows, 1 Owner. 122,000ks £POA

Audi A6

95M A6 2.8 Quattro Saloon FSH. Ruby, 6 Speed, Alloys £17,995

95N A6 2.8 Estate Auto Emerald. Sunrf, ABS, PSH £19,995

97R A6 2.8 Auto Estate Tornado Red. Ex Demo. 9Control, 5Door Bar. £34,995

Audi A4

97R A4 2.8 SE Auto Cotton. Ex Demo. Tiptronic. Alloys. 1 ow Car. 5M. £25,995

95M A4 1.8 Laser Red. 5sp 5dr. Alloys. 27,615. £9,795

95N A4 1.8 SE Saloon Emerald £12,995

97P A4 1.8 Navy Blue. SR, 1 Owner. 7k. £16,995

95N A4 1.8 Estate Lazur. 1 Owner. Alloys. 12Control £17,495

97R A4 1.8 Auto Estate Blue. 1.8 Demo. Sunrf, Bl/ecking. CAR £17,495

Other Audi

94M Cabriolet 2.0 Navy Blue. Low 19K. ABS. Alloys. E/Windows. Alarm. FSH £16,995

94L 100 2.3E Red. 132K. ABS. Alloys £11,295

94L 100 2.0 E Blue. Low 32K. ABS. SR. Wghtg. 1 Owner £11,295

94L Audi 100 Est 2.0 Auto Quattro Met. SR, E/W, Roof Rck. FSH. 1 Own. 2.3L . £12,995

95N 80 TDi SE Estate Blue. Low Alloys. ABS. W/Hch. £17,495

94L 80 2.0 Sport Auto Estate Red. Alloys. ABS. 1.5R. FSH. . £10,995

94M Audi 80 Sport SE 2.0Petrol. ABS.

HWM Audi

New Zealand Ave, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 1AT

01932 220404

AUDI AUTHORISED DEALERS

Dovercourt Battersea

Audi

Approved Used Cars

97R Audi Cabriolet 2.6E. Blue Pearl, Power Hood. Remote Locking

97P Audi A4 2.8 SE Avant. Quartz. 13,000 miles. Leather upholstery. Remote Locking

97P Audi A3 1.6. Cactus Green. 18,000 miles

97P Audi Cabriolet 2.6 E. Volcano Black. 9,000 miles. Air Conditioning

97P Audi A4 TDi Avant. 8,000 miles. Brilliant Black

97P Audi A6 2.8 SE Estate. Auto. Emerald Green. Leather

96P Audi A6 Estate 2.6 SE. 22,000 miles. Black. Walnut. Driver Information

96N Audi A8 4.2 quattro. Grey Met. 9,000 miles. 1 Owner

95N Audi S2 Coupe. Ragasu Green. 15K. Leather. 1 Owner. FSH

96N Audi Cabriolet 2.0E. 13,000 miles. Kingfisher. Half Leather. Alloys

95M Audi 2.6 Auto Cabrio. 23,000 miles. Amazon Green. Part Leather. Black

90G Audi 80 2.0E Avant. Largo Blue. 37,000 miles. Cruise Control



0171 924 5544

98 York Road, Battersea, London

Scotts Audi

Audi

95M Audi RS2 Avant. RS Blue. leather/alcantara recaro seats. aircon. abs. a/bag. traction. c/roof. 315 BHP. cd. 6 speed. 17" carrera cup alloys. 39,180mls £35,495

85C Audi Sport quattro 306BHP. Tornado Red. leather and alcantara sports upholstery. superb condition throughout. documented history. 83,100kms £36,995

97P Audi A8 3.7 Sport "Tip". Brilliant Black. aqua leather sports interior. climate control. side airbags. front and rear seat pack. solar sun roof. cruise. walnut. f/armrests. bose. 10cd p/locks. f/mirrors. alarm. 15" alloy wheels. 8,360mls £36,995

97R Audi A6 2.4 Tip SE. Racing Green. leather upholstery. climate control. asc. walnut. 4x a/bags. e/seats. p/locks. traction. 6cd audio. 16" alloys. 5,160mls £POA

97P Audi 2.8E Convertible. Aluminium Silver. anthracite leather recaro s/seats. power hood. aircon. cruise. obc. h/l/w. r/locks. w/def. 17" 10 spoke alloys. 6,960mls. £33,995

97R Audi 2.6E Convertible. Volcano Black. anthracite leather/cloth s/seats. power hood. sports s/wheel. walnut. w/deflector. 17" 10 spokes. 5,260mls. £29,995

97P Audi 2.6E Convertible. Volcano Black. black leather/cloth s/seats. black p/hood. abs. r/locks. airbag. edm. cw x4. cdl. 8 spoke alloys. 7,680mls £28,995

97P Audi A4 2.8 Auto Avant. Volcano Black. sports seats. climate. abs. traction. airbags. r/locks. f/armrest. rrhails. 6cd. competition alloy wheels. 3,900mls £25,995

97P Audi 2.8E Convertible. Cactus Green. ecru leather s/seats. black hood. abs. pas. sports airbag. cw x 4. h/seats. e/d/mirrors. edm. cdl. 10cd. Audi immobiliser. 10 spoke alloy wheels. 3,760mls £23,995

98R Audi A3 1.8T Sport. Ming Blue. sports seats. abs. 4x airbags. p/s/roof. satellite navigation. r/locks. obc. traction. e/windows. a/s/column. edm. 6cd & bose. competition alloy wheels. 3,900mls £POA

97R Audi A4 TDi 110SE Avant. Blue Pearl. aqua trim. climate. walnut. airbags. cruise. pas. r/locks. net partition. f/armrest. 6cd. alloys. 7,600mls. £22,995

97R Audi A4 1.8 T Sport. Aluminium Silver. black cloth s/seats. abs. sports airbag wheel. obc. a/s/column. otg. lumbar. v/susps. comp alloys. 6,500mls £21,995

97P Audi A3 1.6 Sport. Volcano Black. onyx leather interior. abs. a/bags. pas. p/s/roof. cw. asc. f/armrest. rh/r. e/d/mirrors. cdl. a/wheels. 4,760mls £17,995

95M Audi 80 2.6SE Estate. Metallic Black. black leather sports seats. abs. airbags. pas. e/roof. c/w. edm. cdl. rh/r. rrhails. 10 spokes. 17,600mls £16,995

0171 730 5432
0171 495 0000

Sloane Square
Berkeley Square

AUDI

A4 2.6 Quattro 95 N, silver, 12Ltr, 6Speed, cd, Sunroof/Parchment leather, CD stack, Alisso alloys, 27k miles, 1 owner. Private. £61,000. 01732 882868(H) or 0171 982 2631(W)

A3 1.8 T sport, Jan 98, 5k mls, gold, cc, cd a/changer, ext cond. £19,850 Phone: 0976 573578.

EXCELLENT Savings on Audi Vehicles. Other makes available. AIS. Tel: 01582 650680

S8 1997, 7,000 mls, FSH, silver, chelsea's car. Unmarked. £57,500. Office hours 01788 576381 or 0836 389719.

AUDI A3 1.8T SPORT

Silver, 97R with 98 specifications. 9k miles. £18,500.

Tel: 01223 263424

BMW

1992. 750iL

Black. Black leather, 102,000 miles. 1 previous owner FSH, mint condition. £12,250

0410 143143

BMW Z3

1.9, 97P. Boston Green/Beige leather, manual. 6k miles. Z star alloys. tinted screen. chrome. airbag. front seat heating. electric windows. seats & mirrors. stereo. £23,995.

0181 944 1712 or 0411 017364

325i

Convertable 49,000 miles, FSH 1991, Silver grey. Black leather interior. manual, electric hood, full years MOT. lady owner, excellent condition. Much loved car. £13,500. Tel: 01494 890061

325i Convertible.

L reg, automatic. Samoa blue Leather interior, lowered, alloys. FSH. Tax. 31,000 miles. MOT. Mint condition. £2,500. 0956 199062.

730i

H reg, Metallic Silver. One owner, FSH. ESR. Climate Control, Elec seats. All extras. Immaculate. £6,950. 01844 208209 / 01296 434381.

BMW

318IS Coupe, 95M, Cosmos, ESR, 27k, FBMWSH, alarm, immobiliser, Dectona car, moving abroad. FBMWSH. must secure £11,950. 0191 420 9271

323i Convertible 97 Montreal Blue/lr grey hide 1 own H/Top Climate Hugs Spec £25,000+VAT 01372 451122 T

323i conv. '95 M, black, all extras incl hard top, 18K mls, £29,995. Tel:0171 9372929.

525 TDSER, late '96 P, fabulous Montreal blue, 1 owner, unbelievable 41 mpg averaged, manual, auto air, 6 stack CD, 60K mls. FBMWSH. impeccable. £22,995. Tel: 0850 333949.

528i SE, Auto, Jan '98 R, Biarritz blue/Grey cloth, 1300 miles, Xenon h/lights, PDC Computer. Offers around £30,000. 01252 616475(H) 01252 267247(O).

528i SE 97P, LHD, Black/ Grey Ltht, GPS Nav, TV, CDCh, 6CD, MC, Alloys, Massive Spec, 8k mls £21,000ono 0467 222232

740i V8, Cosmos Black, Sand/Beige hide, extra comfort/memory seats, 45K, FBMWSH, Auto. £25,995. 01908 374000 or 0836 258758 Specialist Cars

ALL BMW's. UPTO 20% discount RHD & UK spec short delivery time. Further info ring Alex 07050 055414 T.

SAVE Money on all new BMW models, European Car Imports. 0181 889 4648. t

Z3 M Roadster

3.2 Manual Metallic Blue. New in country, extra hard top, tracker, air conditioning, delivery mileage. Best offer secures. Tel: 0151 3367628.

M3 Coupe

1995 'M' Registration Directors car. Red. FSH. 37,500 miles. Immaculate condition. £25,750. Please call: 0467 806600

M3

4 DOOR SALOON 95M, 23,000 mls, Daytona Violet, Grey Marble Leather, Bmw Wood, Tracker, CD Auto Changer, AC, CC, Twin Air Bags, FBMWSH. 12 Months MOT. 2 New Tyres All BMW Refinements £26,750 OVNO. Tel: 0181 249 2579

Z3 2.8

First reg June 1997. LHD. Garaged. 1,700 miles. Metallic Silver. Black hood and Black leather seats. Traction control. Very full spec. Double air bags. Loaded. £23,950. Tel: 01926 814773

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

BMW 1998 U.K Specifications

Transatlantic Savings On Z3 3 Series Coupe/ Cabriolet 5 Series Saloon/ Touring Supplied With Manufacturers Warranty. Why Pay More ? Please Call For More Information Tel: 01703 47 02 08 Fax: 01703 47 17 07 We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals Part Exchange Also Welcome

M3 Evolution Coupe 94(N) 28,000 miles Estoril Blue/ nil. ver leather upholstery, Auto air con-board computer, Elec- Windows, Mirrors & Sunroof, driver's airbag, alloy wheels, excellent throughout. £35,995 Martins Audi 01256 867020

Z3 2.8 Auto, Atlantis Blue met, full Beige leather, many extras, new RHD UK car, unregistered, 200 miles. Available now. £31,995 ono. 0181 8040522.

Z3 2.8, Sept 97, 2,500 miles, Arctic Silver, power hood, Red leather interior. £27,500ono. 01342 712353

Z3 2.8 Estoril Blue, Estoril Full Ltht. April/May Delivery, Offers. Tel/Fax: 01243 264970/ 268013

BMW WANTED

HIGH Mileage BMW's Wanted. We Collect. Cash Waiting. 01227 277367, 0860 541699 T

WANTED Wanted, 850 840 750 M3 M5 M6 etc, any mileage 01628 526088 / 0831 123911

WE BUY QUALITY HIGH SPEC BMW WITH FULL SERVICE HISTORY ANYWHERE PLEASE PHONE SHAW MILLS 0831 722227 (p pers)

Milcars Group

FANTASTIC PRICES PAID

Sell your BMW now BILL DAVIES 0836 288288 0181 993 3456

Altwood

CHRYSLER

CUSTOMISED Grand Voyager, 97, LWB, TV/video, fridge, CD, Autodryer, leather +++. Cost new £40,000, offers over £27,500. 0797 0452001(Herts)

CLASSIC CARS

JENSEN CV8, 1963, BRG, auto, MOT, service history. £13,000. 01333 320354

1970 Aston Martin DB6 VS, 1 owner, moderate mileage, in excellent condition. Light metallic Blue with Navy interior. For further information tel: 01540 661254

AUSTIN HEALY 3000 Mark 3 Phase 1, 1965, Red, LHD £15,000. Tel: 01747 854 815

MERCEDES 280 SL, auto, 1971 L (Dish top), Silver/black int, R/S tops, 67K mls, Present owner 22 years. Pristine. £21,000. 01949 813566/0976 914168.

TRIUMPH TR6 '72 150 bhp, Pinanco red, fully rebuilt, w/ white, exc cond. £9,500. 0181 525 0353 (h)/ 0171 357 5248.

XJS-S 1988, Collectors Car, Ltd Edtn, Le Mans No43 of 100 only. Perfect Condition. 28K mls. Stnd Blue/Grey. £20,000 or best offer. 0181 992 0360(W) or 01932 228253(H)

E TYPE

Series 3 Coupe, 1973 (Nov), Signal red, CWW, Manual, 56,000 miles. An immaculate car with history. £20,000.

Tel: 01332 811008.

FERRARI

308 GT4 Dino, '75, Rosso, pristine 64K, 1 owner for 12 years, PSH. £16,500. Tel. 01249 667468.

CONTRACT HIRE

AMAZING OFFERS FOR BUSINESS USERS

C.Hire - Lease - HP

New BMW 318IS Coupe a/c	288.95
New BMW 328i Coupe a/c	344.60
New BMW 523iSE Auto	527.78
New Mercedes C280/6 Auto	382.93
New Mercedes E240/6 Auto	397.56

12 MONTH SPECIALS

eg: NEW Jensen RHV 4 6ltr SOR. 700.00 ALL OTHER MAKES + MODELS HTTP://www.AMT-Leasing.CO.UK/

AMT 0171 2224355 or 0113 2539797 Fax: 0113 2587244

EXECUTIVE CARS

SAVE ON U.K. PRICES BUY YOUR NEW CAR IN EUROPE

Auto Liberté

Tel: (01491) 412468

FERRARI

348TS 1993, LHD, Rosso Nero, 26,000 miles, Sports exhaust, Wide track, Recent belts, PSES, Factory Germany. £36,500. 0468 544164.

F355 BERLINETTA

1995 Rosso Corsa. Magnolia hide, 11,000 miles. FFSH, 1 owner. One of the best examples. Offers over £89,000.

0171 736 4912 or 0171 736 7557 (Office hours only)

FERRARI

328 GTS '90C, New paint and leather, FSH, £24,500 Tel: 01421 789 916/ 0850 812 933

348 Spider, LHD, M reg, Red /black, 5K, 1992 Cam Belts, CD, As New. £59,900. 0370 727340

355 Spider '96 LHD. Fantastic Rancho Rosso/Tan. 5,750 m, Prancing Horse. All poss options £67,000. Tel: 0171 286 6999.

DUCATI AUTHORISED

An excuse to put your foot down at the lights: GRAVITY

Ducati. The thoroughbred Italian sports bike. From £4700 to £18690 (+OTR)

For details ring official UK importer Moto Cinelli on 0700 04 38 22 84, or contact one of these selected authorised dealers

HAMPSHIRE WM Snell, Alton. Tel: 01420 84480

KENT Lagna Motorcycles, Kent. Tel: 01622 691420

LONDON - Central Daytona Motorcycles, Pentonville Road. Tel: 0171 833 2411

LONDON - North West Daytona Motorcycles, Ruislip Manor. Tel: 01895 675511

LONDON - South West Frantiers, Wimbledon Chase. Tel: 0181 540 7774

Greater MANCHESTER Italsport Bury. Tel: 0161 797 6124

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Midland Motorcycle Centre Northampton. Tel: 01604 637551

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Marcol Nottingham. Tel: 0115 950 7912

STAFFORDSHIRE Motorcycle City, Tamworth 01827 280905

SUSSEX - CSW Chichester. Tel: 01243 782544

TYNE & WEAR M&S Motorcycles Newcastle. Tel: 0191 261 0121

WALES - (N) Woods Motorcycles, Shotton. Tel: 01745 822922

WALES - (S) Merlin Ducati, Cardiff Tel: 01222 614622

YORKSHIRE - North Moto Veloci York. Tel: 01904 659659

THE DUCATI EXPERIENCE Race School Tel: 01507 343555

FERRARI

328 GTS YGC, New paint and leather, FSH, £24,500 Tel: 01421 789 916/ 0850 812 933

348 Spider, LHD, M reg, Red /black, 5K, 1992 Cam Belts, CD, As New. £59,900. 0370 727340

355 Spider '96 LHD. Fantastic Rancho Rosso/Tan. 5,750 m, Prancing Horse. All poss options £67,000. Tel: 0171 286 6999.

FIAT

NEW Cars, Bravo, Brava, Marea, Buy direct. Fax 00353 44 40355 Fantastic Saving

VERY-HUGE Savings on Brand New Plate for Private Buyers. Tel: 0171 603 6969 T.

FORD

Ford cars nearly new from Scotcade to Fiesta. Lowest prices 01565 652767/01733 352500

MONDEO ST24 V6, Saloon, Pepper Red, manual, P reg, 8,000 miles. £14,995. Tel: 01664 464728(E) 0116 2697159(W).

MONDEO Ghia X 97 Auto. Cosmos (blue/grey), 5 dr, 10CD, SE & AC, 16ltr up/down, + other extras, 6k mls £13K. 01159 441171

NEW Mondeo 1.8 LX 5 door, 97 P, aubergine, 30S miles only, £10,250. Tel: 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun T.

New Mondeo 1.8 LX TD 5 door P reg, diamond white 25,995. Tel: 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun T.

SCORPIO 2.0 Ultima estate auto 95 M aubergine leather £10,995. Tel: 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun T.

92(K) RS Cosworth Lux a/c, leather, CD, 2 owners, only £17,500

Call: A.G.W. Fordham & Sons Ltd

Ford

(Ford Dealers) 01359 230656

BOXSTER RS 512 1978 red, magnolia, immaculate, 22,500 mls, FFSH, CD changer, Amtob OERO £50,000. + offers for private plate RS 512. 0831 358456.

F355 Spyder 94M RHD. Giallo/Nero. 8K. Immac. FSH. CD. Serv. Offers. 0956 516 464

BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS

Altwood... 1st Past the Finishing post

95M	840CIA Arctic Silver, Light grey, 50k	£30,995	
94M	840CIA, Orient, Light grey, Bolted alloys 38k	£34,995	
95M	750i A, LWB, TV, Great Spec, 40k	£37,995	
95M	750i A, LWB, TV, Great Spec, 25k	£35,995	
97R	740i A, Sat Nav + Ultimate Spec, 5k	£50,995	
96N	740i, 4.4 Auto, TV, Ultimate Spec, 26k	£37,995	
97R	740iL, Canyon, Rear seat package, 6k	£55,995	
95M	740i, Calypso, Grey, Multispoke alloys, 52k	£26,995	
95M	740i, Arctic Silver, 8ltr Ltht, Classic Alloys, 27k	£31,995	
94M	740i, Cosmos, Sand Beige, Good Spec, 45k	£26,995	
96P	740i, 4.4, TV, Oxford, Sand Beige, HiSpec, 34k	£36,995	
94M	740i A, great spec, 82k Hatch	£24,995	
95M	740i A, Special order, Massive spec, 50k	£26,995	
97R	735i A, TV, Ultimate Spec, 8k	£43,995	
96P	728i, Biarritz, sand Beige, GSM C/Seats, 11k	£26,995	
89G	635i A CSi HI line, Absolutely Beautiful,72k	£14,995	
94L	M5 3.8 Special, Ltht, AirCon + More, 56k	£26,995	
94P	M5, Avus, Lt Grey, Nurnburg pack, 26k	£30,995	
96P	540i New Shape, Alpina alloys + More, 21k	£37,995	
96P	540i A New Shape, Great Spec, 28k	£35,995	
97R	540i A Tour, Biarritz, Sand Beige, Full spec,7k	£40,995	
97P	528i A New Shape, Good spec, 25k	£25,995	
97P	528i SE, Ltht, Plus Massive spec, 21k	£29,995	
97P	528i A SE, Great Spec, 8k	£32,995	
96N	528i A SE, Great Spec, 40k	£26,995	
96P	528i A Tour, Biarritz, Sand Beige, G/Spec, 18k	£30,995	
97R	525i A TDS SE Tour, Ultimate Spec, 6k	£32,995	
97P	523i SE, TV, Oxford, Ltht+ Hugh spec, 5k	£31,995	
96N	523i SE, Good spec, 45k	£22,995	
96N	523i ASE, Good spec, 30k	£28,995	
96P	523i ASE, Touring, Great spec, 6k	£33,995	
96N	520i SE, A/C + More, 24k	£18,995	
96M	M3 Evo CPE, Ltht, Air Con + More, 31k	£33,995	
96N	M3 Evo Conv, Estoril, Ltht, O.B.C, 15k	£37,995	
97R	M3 Conv, Cosmos, Champagne, A/C, 2k	£47,995	
96M	M3 Evo Conv, Estoril, Grey, A/C, 34k	£37,995	
97R	M3 Evo CPE, Alaska, Lther, High spec, 6k	£44,995	
95M	M3 Sal, Ltht, A/C + more, 41k	£28,995	
97P	Z3 2.8, Cosmos, Beige, O.B.C., 3k	£30,995	
96P	328i Sport, Boston, Ltht, A/C, FiArest, 25k	£25,995	
96K	328i Auto Conv, Ltht, A/C, Great Spec, 11k	£32,995	
95M	328i A Tour, A/C + Great Spec, 24k	£24,995	
96P	328i Tour, Half Ltht + Good Spec, 10.5k	£24,995	
97R	328i 4 Dr, Silver, Auto, E.S.R, A/C, Alloys, 16k	£27,495	
96P	328i CPE, Madeira, Lt Grey, A/C, 45k	£21,995	
96P	328i CPE, Madeira, 8ltr Ltht, A/C, 19k	£26,995	
94M	325i CPE, Fernando spec, 25k	£19,995	
97R	323i Auto CPE Silver, 8ltr Ltht, A/Con, 11k	£27,995	
97R	318i CPE Ltht, A/C + More, 7k	£19,995	

This is just a small selection

www.altwoodbmw.co.uk

Maidenhead (Berks) 01628 680300

Slough (Berks) 01753 821821

Sunday 10am - 4pm

Cotswold

95M	840 CIA Arctic Silver, Bolted X-Spokes, 49K	£34,995
96N	740i L Cosmos Blk, Board Monitor, R/S Pack, 37K	£38,995
95M	740i A Ascot Green, C/Seats, DrGlazing, 18K	£29,995
96N	528i ASE Montreal Blue, A/C, Alloys, 29K	£28,995
96N	528i SE Calypso Red, A/C, Alloys, F/Lights, 14K	£28,995
96N	525i SE Cosmos Black, Alloys, A/C, 26K	£21,495
94M	525i ASE Tour Calypso Red, Alloys, A/C, 43K	£19,995
97P	523i SE Aspen Silver, A/C, Alloys, F/Lights, 10K	£28,995
95M	520i SE Arctic Grey, Alloys, A/C, F/Lights, 30K	£16,495
97P	Z3 1.9 Arctic Silver, Alloys, 8K	£22,995
97R	M3 Bright Red, A/C, Lthr, ESR, 6K	£37,995
96N	M3 Evo Techno Violet, A/C, ESR, E/Seats, 30K	£32,995
95M	M3 Conv Cosmos Black, Lthr, 22K	£32,495
95N	M3 Avus Blue, ESR, Alloys, Lthr, 37k	£28,995
97P	328i Sport Cosmos Black, A/C, Lthr, Lux, 14K	£29,995
96P	328i Sport Montreal Blue, A/C, Lthr, Lux, 27K	£28,995
95N	328i SE Morea Green, A/C, Lthr, Classics, 24K	£23,995
96P	318i Conv Montreal Blue, Alloys, 12K	£24,995
96P	318i Conv Samoa Blue, Alloys, 31K	£23,995

Over 45 Used Cars Available

Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Telephone: 01242 578838

Open 7 days a week Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

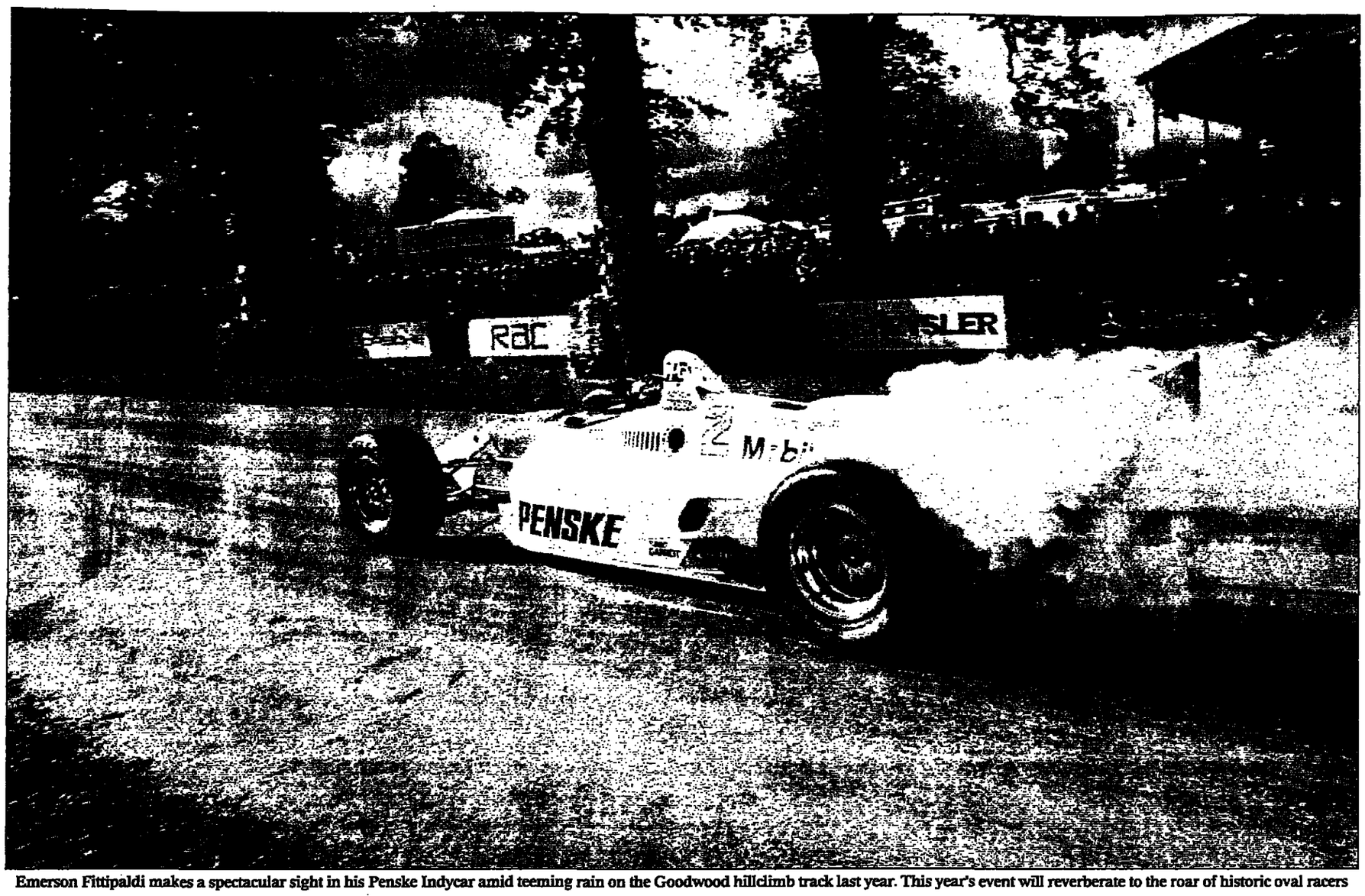
go

Goodwood celebrates Uncle Sam

Indy cars are the stars of this year's speed festival, says **Alan Copps**



Goodwood organiser Lord March aboard a vintage BMW



Emerson Fittipaldi makes a spectacular sight in his Penske Indycar amid teeming rain on the Goodwood hillclimb track last year. This year's event will reverberate to the roar of historic oval racers

There couldn't be a greater contrast: on one side of the Atlantic, the hothouse atmosphere of the "brickyard" — the oval Indianapolis track where the famous 500 is raced every year. On the other side the sylvan setting of Goodwood House nestling in the Sussex Downs with its lane that snakes around a cricket pitch before climbing the hill beside a long flint wall.

Yet to the motorsport enthusiast both these places are shrines, and in June Goodwood will host a unique visit from the heroes of the brickyard. Indycar champions Mario Andretti, Al Unser Jnr, Rick Mears and Bobby Rahal will be among those providing the entertainment at the Festival of Speed, matching chassis designed for outright speed and endurance on banking against the narrow confines of Goodwood's famous hill.

Goodwood is one of very few places in Europe where the roar of the Indyracer has ever been heard; amid teeming rain last year, Emerson Fittipaldi made a spectacular sight in his Penske. But the Festival of Speed's horizons have always been broad: this year's event on June 12, 13 and 14 is dedicated to innovation, and many more Indy racers will be present, a rare accolade for achievements often ignored on this side of the Atlantic.

Modern Indycar racing, with its Lola and Reynard chassis and Ilmor engines, relies on similar technologies to Formula One, and its past is peppered with just as much glorious eccentricity. Among the older visitors in June will be at least one double-overhead-camshaft Peugeot that ran in the first 500 in 1911, and the 1913 Isotta Fraschini that driver Bill Gilhooly flipped over in front of the grandstand just before the finish. Even today a last lap incident at Indy is a "Gilhooly". The 1920 French Ballot that finished second, driven by René Thomas will also be there. It was bought by Malcolm Campbell and later raced at Brooklands.

Later cars will include the wonderfully original Alfa Romeo Tipo B that ran in 1939, 1946 and 1947 and has remained virtually untouched since. Its run up the Goodwood hill will be the first time it has roared in anger since its heyday. There will be the heroically noisy Novi Governor Special from 1946, a 1955 Kurtis-Offenhauser streamliner, a turbocharged Offenhauser of the type that Bobby Unser won the 1968 race in and several turbine-powered cars that featured at Indy in the late 1960s, including probably a Lotus 56 of the type raced by Graham Hill.

"Our tribute to Indycar will not only reflect our theme of The Innovation Years but will also be a real thrill for the crowd," says Lord March, who founded the festival in 1993 and has presided over its growth into motorsport's equivalent to Henley or Wimbledon.

Walking round the Goodwood paddock and exhibition areas gets you closer to fabulous cars and legendary drivers than anywhere else. Those who will be in action include Stirling Moss, Tony Brooks, Sir Jack Brabham, John Surtees, Phil Hill and Roy Salvadori. There will be current Formula One cars from runaway championship leaders McLaren, and drivers will include Johnny Herbert, probably driving a Lotus as part of the tribute to that marque's 50th anniversary. Other significant anniversaries, sure to bring out spectacular and rarely seen cars are 50 years of Porsche (for which Jacky Ickx is among the drivers), 50 years of the Jaguar XK and 75 years of BMW motorcycles.

Audi will be celebrating the restoration of another of the famous prewar Silver Arrows, a 1936 V16 Auto Union C-type, with touring-car stars Frank Biela and Emmanuelle Pirro sharing that car and the 1938 V12 D-type. The rally sprint event will feature Ford's World Rally car and the rally version of the Puma coupé.

Chief among the historic bikes on show will be the only F model Norton, which was put into store after just one test run on the day in 1954 that the company abandoned its world championship programme. A stunning example of the dedication of past champions, it has just been restored by John Surtees, seven times motorcycle world champion and the only man to add a car title to that feat, with the help of works team mechanic Charlie Edwards, the only survivor of the original design team.



1938 Auto Union D-Type V12 will be shown by Audi

FESTIVAL OFFER

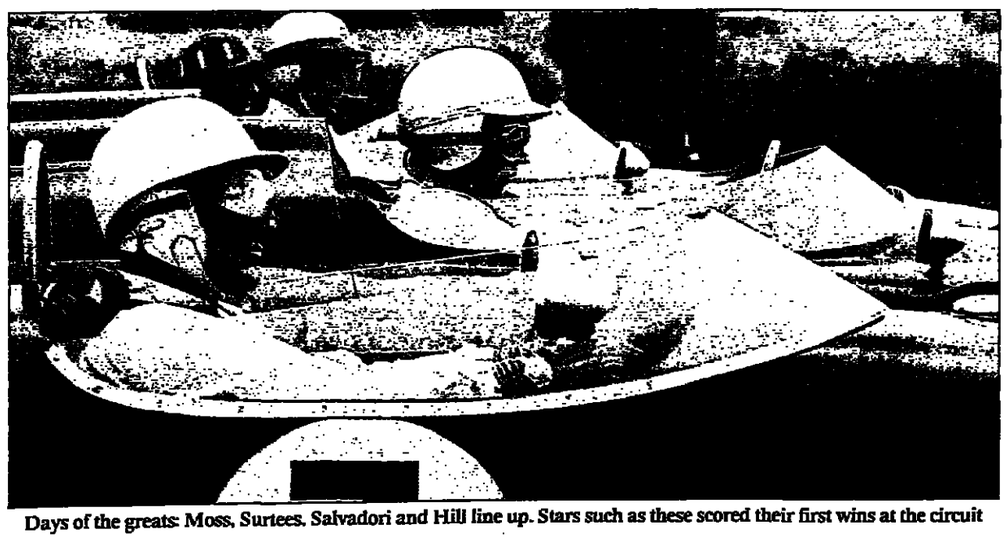
■ THE BEST way to see the festival is to make a weekend of it, and today *The Times* offers a chance to do so in style. Readers who book tickets for Saturday and Sunday and send this panel with their application will save £5 on the normal £40 advance price, and go into a prize draw for a weekend for two.

■ THE prize includes all tickets, a hotel for Saturday night, lunch and tea in Goodwood House on Sunday and a return crossing for a car on one of P&O European Ferries' routes from Portsmouth to Le Havre, Cherbourg or Bilbao, and you'll get your cheque back.

■ FIRST application drawn will win. Closing date is April 30. Send your £35 cheques and panels to: Times Draw, Goodwood Road Racing Co, Goodwood House, Goodwood, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0BR. For details of all other tickets call the advance booking hotline: 01243 787 766.

Rebirth of an electrifying circuit

Alan Copps tries the rebuilt historic racetrack



Days of the greats: Moss, Surtees, Salvadori and Hill line up. Stars such as these scored their first wins at the circuit

■ THIS YEAR the Festival of Speed is joined by what promises to be another outstanding event on the Goodwood calendar. In September, for the first time in more than 30 years, the Goodwood Motor Circuit will again resound to car and motorcycle racing.

The place where Stirling Moss, Tony Brooks, Roy Salvadori and a host of other star names scored their first wins is being revived as a home purely for historic racing, one of the most rapidly growing attractions in motorsport. Complaints about boring-looking cars and lack of overtaking are all too familiar at modern meetings.

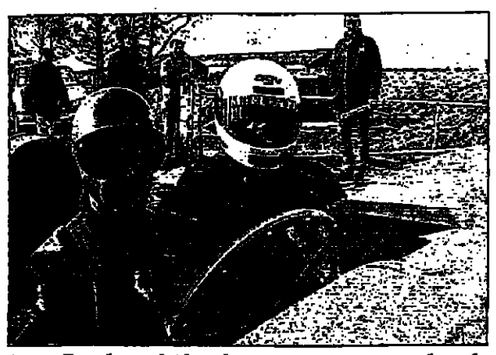
But the revived Goodwood will lay claim to being the most authentic of all circuits for historic racing, which recreates the days when skill and courage could still defeat advanced technology.

While the star drivers of the postwar decades are among the most fervent proponents of this form of racing, it is not just a matter of nostalgia. Some of the most enthusiastic drivers were hardly born when Goodwood closed, and some of those collectors who have done so much to preserve and restore the cars are too young to remember the original races.

The restoration of the circuit has taken just over a year – amazingly fast work after four years of negotiations with local authorities. By the time the revival meeting opens on September 18, 50 years to the day since the circuit first opened, more than 270,000 tonnes of earth will have been poured into a sound-deadening bank around the track. New safety barriers will have consumed 27,000 old tyres, six miles of fencing will have been put up and 20,000 trees and 18,000 ivy plants, to cloak the tyre walls will have been planted.

Of all the circuits used for historic racing, Goodwood has changed least from its original layout, which was based on the disused wartime airfield of Westhampnett by Freddie March, Brooklands racer and grandfather of the present Earl of March, who has overseen the restoration.

A quick lap or two in the passenger seat of an immaculately restored Aston Martin DB3S with Tony Brooks, wearing period helmet and goggles at the wheel, was enough to vouch for the authenticity of the circuit. Four-wheel drifting through corners, braking hard from 140mph at the end of the Lavant straight and neatly snaking through the chicane, there was no doubt that after just a few laps in a car he hadn't seen since 1956, the man Stirling Moss regards as one of his greatest rivals was settling back into the groove on the circuit where his career began.



Tony Brooks and Alan Copps drive the restored track

Brooks, Moss, Salvadori, John Surtees, Phil Hill, Dan Gurney and Derek Bell are among those invited to take part on September 18, 19 and 20. There will be classes for sportscars, sports-racers, closed GT, Formula 1 and 2 cars, saloons, motorcycles and sidecars, and every vehicle will have to pass a test of authenticity. Intriguingly, handicap races of the kind for which the circuit was famous are also promised, involving cars of different types.

For those who want to support this event and the Festival of Speed, a Goodwood Road Racing Club has been formed. Club and ticket information are available from the Goodwood Road Racing Company (see festival offer panel).

Next chance saloon

Ferrari driver tells **Vaughan Freeman** of Volvo move



Whole new game, boy: Morbidelli relaxes at home

■ WHEN Formula One champion and IndyCar hero Nigel Mansell tried his hand at saloon car racing in 1993 the results were spectacular and embarrassing, as "our Nige" wrote off his BTCC Mondeo after just a few laps.

Now he has pledged to drive again for Ford at three meetings this season. And beside him on the grid he will find another ex-Formula One racer, Gianni Morbidelli, who is switching to BTCC in the Volvo team alongside the Swede Rickard Rydell, who finished fourth in last year's championship.

Ford will have to make dramatic improvements if Mansell is to challenge the Volvo drivers, who have been among the fastest in pre-season tests and whose cars, prepared by TWR, will again be carrying the *Times* logo when the season starts this weekend at Thruxton.

Morbidelli is now in the ideal position to look back, with some anger but a lot of affection at an F1 career that began almost a decade ago. He had just turned 20 when the dream drive for any Italian racer materialised, and he was recruited as an F1 test driver with Ferrari. The move followed teenage success and world titles as a karting champion before he became the Italian and European F3 champion in 1989. His F1 career highlight was not in a Ferrari though, but a less glamorous Footwork-Hart Arrows, when he secured his only podium place with third at the 1995 Australian Grand Prix.

Morbidelli also raced and tested with Jordan-Peugeot, Minardi and Sauber, but an F1 seat seemed easier to come by than F1 success so now, aged 30, he is making the switch. How will racing in BTCC differ?

■ MORBIDELLI says: "F1 cars are rear-wheel drive; BTCC cars are front-wheel drive, so with a BTCC car when you get oversteer you cannot control it with the power. With F1 cars you have 700bhp compared with 300bhp with BTCC, but that does not mean it is easier. You have to be very smooth. If you are aggressive you lose time.

"Some people think that because there is less power it is easier. It absolutely is not. With less power every little mistake can lose you a lot of time," he adds. "In F1 the brakes are so powerful you can stop the car from flat out in 50 metres, and to push the brakes is difficult because you have to exert 70kg of pressure.

"If you exert that pressure in a BTCC car you just lock the front brakes. If you try to brake in BTCC as late as in F1 you will crash on the first corner."

Fitness will be as important in BTCC as it was for Morbidelli in F1: "You have got to be in good physical shape for F1 and for BTCC. For F1 I made sure I was in shape, because it is very demanding physically with all the g-forces, and also sometimes in the cockpit it can reach 60 or 70 degrees centigrade.

"With F1 especially, you need to prepare the neck muscles, so I work half an hour in the gym just on the neck using weights or cords attached to a helmet. In F1 your heart rate stays at around 170bpm for the whole race, an hour and 45 minutes, which is high. Even marathon runners only get their heart rate up to around 140-150 beats per minute.

CADILLAC

Be the first to drive the new RHD Cadillac Seville.

Cadillac. The first ever right hand drive Cadillac Sevilles will arrive in the UK in May. Silky 305bhp V8, unrivalled luxury and equipment, leather upholstery, 8 speaker 425 watt hi-fi, electronic traction control. Call now and be the first to drive the ultimate luxury car. 0845 601 2121

DRIVING TUITION

What price safety?

Did you know that you can become an advanced driver for just £42? You will benefit from greater skill, safety and confidence on the roads, with lower insurance costs and the many other advantages of IAM membership.

Advanced driving guidance is also available from over 200 Local Groups throughout the UK which offer FREE Observed runs for drivers who join as Group associate members. Can you really afford not to do it?

For further information complete the coupon and return **Freepost** or visit the IAM Web Site: www.iam.org.uk



Reg. Charity No. 249002

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS
Freepost, Licence No. SW1965, 359 Chiswick High Rd., London, W4 4BR.
Tel: 0181-994 4403 (24hr Answering) Fax: 0181-994 9249

Name ______

Address ______ Post Code ______

POST TODAY NO STAMP NEEDED

THE TIMES 1-98

FORD

SCORPIO 2.9 24v Ultima 4 door auto M reg tourmaline green pumice leather £10,995. Tel: 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun T.

SCORPIO 2.9 24v Ultima 4 door auto 97 P state blue, leather £16,495. Tel: 01530 560056 / 01530 814440 Sun T.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WANTED

1988 1996 Top prices paid for all low mileage 4x4's. Mole Valley Motor Group 01372 749090.

HONDA

CRV ES Auto, Passion orange, April 98, Del miles, 3rd year wty. £19,500. 0860 422357.

INTEGRA, Type R, 98R, basic full spec, £20,000. Tel: 0181 802 3200 or 0961 136727

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

DAIMLER
Six. 4.0L (New Shape), Feb 95, one owner (MD's Car), 40k mls, FJSH, Titanium, full Grey lthr, Burr Walnut trim, picnic tables, ESR, A/C, climate control, E/W, heated seats, mirrors & windscreen, elec mirrors, twin airbag, ABS, 6 disc CD, alarm & immob. Immaculate for its year. £29,000ono.
01622 692722(W)/01622 863331(H)

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

HUMMER 1997 Wagon Dark Green 6.5 TD 3K miles As new. Warranty. £65,000 + VAT. American Car Imports: 0181 889 4545.

JEEP

CHEROKEE 4.0 Ltd, 96N, Blue, 26,500 mls, A/C, E/W, CD, lthr, alrm, T/Bar, B/Bars, FJSH. £16,800ono. 0171 568 5975

GRAND CHEROKEE P reg, black, leathr int, 17k mls, FSH, immac condition, fully loaded. £25,995. 0181 2064934 after 6pm or 0966 294313(Louis).

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS

Merlin LAND-ROVER
CAMBRIA ASSURED

96N 2.5 DSE Auto, Willow Green/Lightstone Lthr	£29,495
97R 2.5 DSE Auto, Wagon Grey/Grey Lthr	£32,495
97P 2.5 DSE Auto, Epsom Green, 18" Alloys	£34,995
97R 4.6 SE Auto Oxford Blue/Lightstone Lthr	£37,495
95M 4.0 Auto Montpellier Red, Elec. Sun Roof	£23,995
96P 4.6 HSE, Epsom Green/Lightstone Lthr	£39,995
95N 4.6 HSE, Epsom Green/Granite Lthr	£32,995
96N 2.5 DT Auto, Rioja Red, E/Sun Roof	£25,495

CONTACT: RICHARD WOODS
0468 505679

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY V8I Estate Auto, 1996 M reg, 5 dr, 7 sts, Green Ext, Tan Lthr Sts, AC, CD, Airbags, S/rfs, c/locking, 7,500 mls. £21,000 0171 568 0661.

DISCOVERY TDI 5, July 96, Epsom, 27k, transferable warranty. £16,250. 01225 862527

DISCOVERY TDI, N reg, 3 dr, Silver, 50k, FSH. Excellent cond. £15,500. 01872 553533

RANGE ROVER/ Discovery, most models available, all price ranges, best UK prices, free demo anywhere, PX finance. Cornet Ltd 01494 434774/ 716295/ 0370 748561.

SERIES 1 Convertible Landrover. 1952. Green with canvas soft top. Totally loved, excellent condition. MOT. Tax exempt. £4,500. 01497 847748.

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

LANDROVER DISCOVERY 1998
Save ££££
Discovery TDi GS/ XS/ ES
Manual & Automatic
All Supplied With
Manufacturers Warranty
GS Model Loaded With Extras
Call Now For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

RANGE ROVER

4.6HSE 95 model. Epsom green, saddle hide, drives like new. FSH, 55,000 miles hence £23,750 for quick transaction only. Please Tel James on 0181 852 8383(W) or 0181 319 1046(H) 0386 533633(24hrs)

4.6 HSE Auto, 1996, N reg, 28,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner, Rioja Red, Grey leather, Private sale. £33,950. 01892 852875

SE 4L auto, '95 M, Avalon blue, grey lthr, 39K, 12 stack CD, 1 owner. FSH/extd wty. £26,500. 01799 550464/0860 776118.

VOGUE SE, 3.9, 5 door, automatic, Ardennes Green, '93 L, 38K, extended warranty till Aug. Full spec, lthr, air suspension, all elecs. Pristine. £15,750. 01543 468844(H) 01543 578772(W)

JAGUAR & DAIMLER

4.0 SOVEREIGN Blue. In perfect condition. Garaged. Vendor owner since new. Full service record. Many extras inc sunroof. Under 40K. Reg June 91. £12,500. 0181 346 6292.

XJS 4.0 Conv Celebration 1996. 11,000 miles. CD. £35,000. 01932 267616/ 0836 373735

XJR Supercharge, N reg, long mfg warranty, silver met, 4 new tyres & many extras, FSH, 50,000 mls. £27,500. 01689 858874 H/0171 232 5000 W.

XJS 6 litre, 94L, Blue, 44k miles, FSH, directors car. £19,500. 0410 835035/0181 9985748

XK8 Conv, Dec 96, Antigua Blue/Oatmeal hide, 15k mls. £6.5k extras. £52,950. 01536 723682(H) 01782 714499(W)

XK8 Convertible, choice of 2, high spec. Tel: 0836 372717 T

XK8 Convertible, 2 door Auto, 97P, 12,000 miles, Ice Blue, FSH, 18" alloys, Classic interior & Cream leather. Many extras. Immaculate. Must be seen. Must be sold. £53,950ono. 0467 650204

XK8 Convertible, 1997 R reg, Met Black/Cream Lthr, 5700 mls. All Extras. £56,500 0181 508 0692 or 07771 717543

XK8 Coupe, 1997, Sherwood, £10,000 extras, 9,000 miles, 2 years manufacturers warranty inc reg no. 84 XK8. Private sale. £49,500. 01485 600297.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

01372 749090 Mole Valley are THE Jaguar Buyers. Collect Nationwide. 0831 406172 w/e.

LEFT HAND DRIVE

528I SE 97P, Black/Grey Ldr, GPS Nav, TV, GSM, 6CD, AC, Alloys. Massive Spec. 8k mls. £21,000! ono. 0467 222232

MIDLAND L.H.D. Suppliers of new & used L.H.D. vehicles, variety in stock. Left hand drive cars wanted. Tel: 01543 414 307

BRAND NEW: MX-5 £9,300. RAV-4 £9,300. Vitara £7,700. Puma £8,400. C-220D £12,500. Espace £11,400. Celica £10,900. Previa £11,900. Landcruiser £16,000. Discovery £13,000. All makes/any model. 0171 413 9980 T

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

TWR
Seriously Jaguar. Instinctively TWR

94M	XJR 4.0 S/C, Auto, Turquoise/Oat, A/C, 54T	£28995
97P	XK8 CONVERTIBLE, Carnival/Oatmeal, Black Hood, A/C, 7T	£55995
97	XK8 COUPE, Auto Antigua/Cream, A/C, 8T	£49995
94M	XJ12 6.0, Auto, Kingfisher/Mag, A/C, 36T	£21995
97P	XJ6 3.2 EXECUTIVE, Auto, Sapphire/Oat, A/C, 12T	£29995
96N	SOVEREIGN 4.0, Auto, Nautilus/Oat, A/C, 26T	£29995
95M	XJR 4.0 SC, Auto, Sapphire/Romarus, A/C, 26T	£31995
95M	DAIMLER SIX 4.0 LWB, Titanium/Oat, A/C, 23T	£35995
96M	XJS 4.0 CELEBRATION COUPE, Ice/Mandes, Auto, A/C, 29T	£29995
94M	XJ6 3.2 SPORT, Auto, BR Green/Oatmeal, 40T	£22995

TEL: 01604 239944
SUNDAY: 0467 678449

LAMBORGHINI

COUNTACH
Anniversary
Built late'89
Black/White leather, sports exhaust, every extra, approximately 8,500 miles, FLSH, immaculate.
£50,000 secures.
00353 627 1407 (IRL) or 0385 971411 (UK)

LEXUS

COUPES direct from Japan, right hand drive V.8, twin turbo and 3 litre models new and used. Intercar of London 0181 203 3399 or visit our new Manchester Showroom 0161 764 8881

GS 300 auto, '97 P, Venetian blue, beige lthr, 11,000 mls, FLSH, remainder mfg wty, genuine sale, as new. £28,500. 01273 842315 (eves/w/ends).

LS400 94L, Black, Private Plate, FSH. Immaculate. £19,200. 0976 276403

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

Stratstone

96P	XJ6 4.0 Conv, Antig/Oat,	4T	£54,950	
96P	XK8 4.0 Coupe, Silv/Oat,	22T	£44,950	
97P	XJ6 3.2, BRG/Cash,	9T	£33,950	
97R	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Carn/Oat,	5T	£35,950	
96P	XJR 4.0 S/C, Tora/Crm,	29T	£35,950	
96P	XJR 4.0 S/C, Sapp/Crm,	18T	£33,950	
96N	XJR 4.0 S/C, Sapp/Crm,	14T	£32,950	
95N	XJR 4.0 S/C, Flam/Oat,	45T	£28,950	
96P	Sov 4.0 LWB, Cab/Oat,	40T	£32,950	
97P	Sov 4.0, BRG/Crm,	21T	£32,950	
95M	Sov 4.0, Topaz/Crm,	16T	£31,950	
95N	Sov 4.0, Sapp/Oat,	19T	£31,950	
95N	Sov 4.0, Flam/Oat,	28T	£27,950	
95N	Sov 4.0, Sapp/Crm,	29T	£26,950	
95M	Sov 4.0 (Ltd), Silv/Sav,	25T	£29,950	
94M	Sov 4.0, Flam/Doe,	56T	£20,950	
94L	Sov 4.0, Sol/Doe,	42T	£18,950	
95M	Sov 3.2, Ang/Oat,	35T	£25,950	
95M	Sov 3.2, Sapp/Oat,	30T	£25,950	
96P	XJ6 4.0 Sport, Aqua/Oat,	33T	£29,950	
96N	XJ6 4.0 Sport, BRG/Doe,	19T	£29,950	
95M	XJ6 4.0 Sport, BRG/Oat,	31T	£27,950	
97P	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Anth/Blk,	10T	£29,950	
97P	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Antig/Oat,	11T	£29,950	
96P	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Antig/Oat,	34T	£26,950	
96P	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Tora/Crm,	32T	£27,950	
95N	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Flam/Oat,	29T	£24,950	
95N	XJ6 3.2 Sport, Anth/Doe,	39T	£24,950	
95N	XJ6 3.2 Sp Illum, Tora/Oat,	38T	£28,950	
96N	XJ6 3.2 Exec, Ice/Oat,	5T	£31,950	
97R	XJ6 3.2 Exec, BRG/Oat,	11T	£31,950	
97R	XJ6 3.2 Exec, BRG/Oat,	10T	£31,950	
96N	XJ6 3.2 Exec, Sapp/Oat,	14T	£29,950	
96P	XJ6 3.2 Exec, Carn/Crm,	15T	£28,950	
96P	XJ6 3.2 LWB, Naut/Nimb,	13T	£28,950	
97P	XJ6 3.2, Carn/Oat,	14T	£29,950	
96N	XJ6 3.2, Carn/Oat,	19T	£25,950	
95N	XJ6 3.2 SE, Sapp/Oat,	58T	£21,950	
93K	XJ6 3.2, Sol/Doe,	61T	£18,950	
94M	XJS 4.0 Conv, Sapp/Crm,	20T	£33,950	
94M	XJS 4.0 Coupe, Mor/Crm,	17T	£25,950	
94L	XJS 4.0 Coupe, Silv/Sav,	36T	£21,950	

FREEPHONE 0800 7318010 Open 7 Days. Sun 10am - 4pm

CONTRACT HIRE

NEW & USED VEHICLES FROM:

NEW:	Fleet	£120
	4x4	£159
	MPV	£230
	Executive	£257
	Luxury	£402
	Exotics	£523
USED:	Nissan	£132
	Vauxhall	£145
	Ford	£148
	Rover	£177
	Renault	£193
	Toyota	£199

FREE Guide to Contract Hire

FREE Extras on certain Models

•Lease Purchase •Finance Lease •Contract Hire •PCP •H.P. •Cash

Porsche Boxster R Reg Big Spec Free on Request

*** 6 Month Deals ***

Mondeo	£349
Golf VR6	£399
Lexus GS 300	£725
Sharan 7 Seater	£499

FLEET MANAGEMENT Inc
Accident Management
Uninsured Loss Recovery
RAC Inc. Relief Vehicle
All Servicing
All Tyres (Fair wear & tear)
All Consumables
From £19.95 p/m

PLATINUM

FREEPHONE SOUTH: 0800 7833250
FREEPHONE MIDLANDS: 0800 0733123
FREEPHONE NORTH: 0800 0733345
FAX: (01924) 211888 EMAIL: platinumvc@aol.com

LEXUS

GS300, 93L, Silver, 86,000 miles, tax/ MOT November, full spec, 1 owner, MD's car, FLSH, £16,000. Tel: 01276 854805

LOTUS

1996N Lotus Esprit S4s Turbo ex-Lotus Team Car 18,200 miles. Oz Wheels, Brembo Brakes, Met Blue with Beige Leather, Full Lotus History, £36,995. Tel: Chiltern Ford 01494 450000 or Freephone (0800 567786)

CARLTON 93, Dark met green, FSH, 16,000 miles. Immaculate. £38,000. 01736 798421

ELAN S2 Turbo 1996 (Special Limited Edition) No680. Last car from factory. One off. British Racing Colours. Green body. Yellow wheels. Red steering wheel. Red piping on leather upholstery. Private sale. 12,300 miles. Genuine reason for sale. £29,950 Work 01282 616618 or Home 01282 438146.

MAZDA

MX5 1.6, 94 L, 47k mls, Silverstone, alloy wheels, PAS, E/W. £10,950. 01425 472416

MAZDA Choice, best choice, keenest prices. Mazda choice freephone 0800 823 626.T

XEDOS 9 V6 2.5, Auto, 95N, pearlescent White, A/C, ESR, cruise control, towbar, 33k mls, FSH. Doctors car. Genuine reason for sale. Immaculate. £13,960. 01223 249911

MASERATI

430 Auto, 1989 G, 25k mls, Exc condition, Grey Blue, Blue Int, FSH, MOT until Oct, Taxed Sept, Alarm. £7000 ono. 0171 434 0889(W)/229 0008(H)

BITURBO Spyder 2.8i, manual, '89, White, Blk lthr, History, Imm/alm, 1 yr MOT. £14,500 ono London 01279 870374(H).

MERCEDES

230CLK Kompressor, auto, 97 R, Sk, 1 owner, t/elecs, £35,995 01582 492314 / 0585 146235.

200TE Estate, 92 J, Manual, 45,500 mls, FSH, 7 sts, ew, esr, immob, 12m MOT, t/bar unused. £11,500. 0171 5894177

300D Avant Garde, Azurite Blue TD, 97, 5 spd auto, sports susp, AC, CC, FMBSH, 16,000 mls, 1 own, £29,500. 01626 366993

300D auto E reg, Met blue, A/C, alloys, A/bag, ABS, roof, OTG, S/hole, R/blind, FMBSH. 83K mls. £12,000. 0121 3111991.

300 SL 88E, 52k, White/Black, H/S tops, alloys, immob, wind breaker, rear seats. £20,995. 01258 861259/860455

300SL 1989G, Smoked Silver, 38K, FMBSH, Lthr, R seats, ABS, CD, Alarm. Seat warms. Immac. CC. £24,995. 0181 764 6111.

300SL '88 E auto, only 51K miles, Pale Metallic Green, rear seats, S/H tops, ABS, FSH. Immac cond. £20,995. 0836 267513.

C250
Elegance Turbo Diesel Estate, 11 mths young, beautiful met Aquamarine, fully loaded & pristine throughout. 12 mths manu warr. Cost new £34k. Quick sale £26k.
01925 740958
or 0802 550500

MERCEDES AUTHORISED DEALERS

BRADSHAW WEBB
CHEYNE WALK, CHELSEA AND WANDSWORTH BRIDGE SOUTH

92J	190E 1.8 Midnight Blue, E/Sunroof, E/F/Windows, 15H A/W	£9,985
91J	190E 2.0 Pueblo Beige, Automatic, Electric Sunroof, Stereo	£10,495
97R	C180 Classic White, Automatic, Electric Sunroof, Stereo	£20,995
97P	C180 Elegance Ruby Red Metallic, Automatic, Air Con, Stereo	£21,995
97P	C180 Elegance Smoke Silver Met, Automatic, Air Con, Stereo	£21,995
97R	C180 Elegance Tourmaline Green Metallic, Automatic, Stereo	£22,495
97R	C180 Elegance Ruby Red Met, Auto, 3rd Brake Light, Stereo	£22,495
97R	C180 Elegance Green Black Metallic, Automatic, Stereo	£22,495
97R	C180 Sport Polar White, Auto, Air Con, Split Rear Seat, Stereo	£23,495
94M	C200 Elegance Brilliant Silver Metallic, Automatic, Stereo	£19,495
97P	C200 Elegance Tourmaline Met, Auto, 3rd Brake Lamp, R/C	£22,495
95N	C220 Esprit Brilliant Silver Met, Auto, Sunroof, FAR, Stereo	£19,495
97R	C250TD Elegance Azurite Blue Metallic, Auto, OTG, Stereo	£25,495
97P	C36 AMG Blue Black Metallic, Leather, Climate Con, ETS, CD	£39,995
97P	V230 Trend, Brilliant Silver Metallic, 5H Alloys Wheels, Stereo	£18,995
97P	V230 Ambiente Dark Violet, Leather, Auto, Air Con, Stereo	£22,495
96P	E200 Elegance Dark Blue, Leather, Auto, A/C, Parktronic, CD	£26,995
96P	E200 Avantgarde Green Black Met, Auto, A/C, E/Sts, Stereo	£27,495
93L	E220 Signal Red, Automatic, Electric Sunroof, R/H/R, Stereo	£17,495
94L	E220 Blue Black Met, Auto, Air Con, Sunroof, Airbag, Stereo	£17,995
96P	E230 Elegance Azurite Metallic, Automatic, Air Con, Stereo	£26,495
97R	E300TD Avantgarde Brilliant Silver Met, Air Con, Elec/F/Sts	£32,495
94L	E320 Blue Black Met, Lthr, Air Con, Elec/Drivers/Seat, A/W, CD	£22,995
97R	E320 V6 Avantgarde Amazon Green Met, Lthr, ACC, E/Seats	£39,995
94L	E280 Estate Blue Black Met, 8H A/W, Sunroof, HWW, Stereo	£21,995
93K	220CE Coupe Malachite Met, Auto, A/C, Elec/Seats, 15H, A/W	£20,995
93L	E220 Coupe Blue Black Met, Lthr, Auto A/C, Sunroof, 8H A/W	£22,495
96N	E220 Coupe Azurite Blue Met, Auto, Elec, Sunroof, Stereo	£28,995
92J	300CE Coupe 24v Bornite Met, Lthr, Auto, A/C, Alloys, CD	£24,995
94L	SL280 Blue Black Met, ACC, E/F/Seats, Fr Seat, 8H, A/W, CD	£42,995
94L	SL320 Almandine Met, ACC, E/F/Seats, Fr Seat, 8H, A/W, CD	£39,995
97R	SL320 Green Black Met, ACC, Rear Seat, 8H A/W, Multi CD	£60,995
97R	SL500 Green Black Met, ACC, Rear Seat, 8H A/W, Multi CD	£70,995
94M	S280 Azurite Blue Metallic, Climate, Cruise, Alloys, MB Stereo	£29,995
97P	S280 Dark Blue, Leather, Parktronic, Massive Specification	£42,995
95N	S320L Blue Black Met, Leather, Elec/Drivers Seat, 8H Alloys	£39,995
93K	400SE Nautic Blue Met, Climate, E/Seats, Closing Aids, Stereo	£29,495
95M	S500L Pearl Blue Met, Heated Seats, 12 Hole Alloys, Stereo	£37,995
93K	600SEL Blue Black Metallic, Grey Leather, Total Specification	£41,995
97P	CL600 Azurite Blue Met, Nappa Lthr, Elec/Mem/Htd Seats, ESP	£78,995

0171 493 7705
SUNDAY/OUT OF HOURS: 0370 223726
www.bradshawwebb.co.uk
Mercedes-Benz

MERCEDES

300TE 4-matic, F reg, FSH, AC, cc, sun r/f, driver elec seat, rear facing seats, 94k mls, good cond. £9,500 0171 503 9080.

320 SL's New 98R Choice of colours, mega spec, immed. delivery. £59,995. 0181 458 7964

450 SLC Icon Gold/Russet, Velour interior, 1974 M, 49,000 miles, air, alloys, history, VGC. £6,500. 01434 606850(North East)

420 SEC Aug 86, Green/ Cream lthr int, 65,500 mls only, Sunroof auto, 1 careful owner from new, FSH, excellent condition. £12,750. Tel: 01484 684152 (W) 01484 663451 (H).

420 SL Champagne Silver, FSH, H/S top, 28,800 mls. Immac cond. £20,500.01724 843357

500SL 87D, Pajet/Grey leather, H/S Tops, Rear seats, Air Con, Airbag, Htd seats, Cruise, A/R, FMBSH, Plus bills. 120K. £13,950 ono. 0171 351 7931 (Day)/ 0836 312866 (Eves).

500 SL 1991, Black with Black leather, 40,000 miles, immaculate throughout, FMBSH, Quick sale. £40,500ono. 0181 531 1113 or 0181 441 7474

500 SL (88), Nautic Blue/ Tan leather, 48,000 miles, service history, lady owner. Immac. £22,750. Tel: 0705 0046836

500SL 90G, Blue/Mushroom hide, FSH, total spec, 64k. Immac. £35,500. 01737 812367(Eve)

500 SEL 1991 Black, only 50,000 miles, full elec pack, 1 private owner from new, £20,050 ono. Tel: 0161 2731024 (day) or 0161 4451738(eves)

500SEL Metallic green, Oct 85, 50 k only, FSH, beige int, garaged, MB club member, superb condition. £12k.01797 367336(priv)

600SEL K reg, full spec, 82k mls, 1 owner, offers around £30k. 0181 966 9898(off hrs).

600 SL 93K 37K mls A/C Alloys CC E/W Blue/Blk, Black lthr R Seat. £50,950.01372 739488 t

C230 Kompressor Elg, R reg, silver auto, ac, alloys, etc. £24,500. Tel: 01444 453609.

C280 Silver, lthr, alloys, FMBSH, met maint, md's car. £20,750. Tel: 01582 761739.

C200 Esprit, 96, Black, manual, FMBSH, ABS, PAS, twin airbags, EHR, EW, EM, MB immob, 1 owner, as new. £12,990. 0191 2524766 or 0410 878739.

E300 2.9 Diesel Estate, Feb 95, 50,000 miles, Smoke Silver/ Charcoal, air con, electric windows, Walnut finish, FSH, immaculate condition. £21,000. 01747 860423(W)

E55 AMG - Brand New LHD 1-Silver/Black lthr 1-White/Black lthr All options OTR UK. £55,000 each. European Car Imports: 0181 889 4848

E250D Man, LHD, 96N, Met Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 15k mls. £14,995. 0171 584 6524.

E200 Elegance Auto 96P dark blue /grey cloth Low 16k FSH £18750+vat; E280 Auto 98R Avantgarde Met Black/ grey hide a/c +++ 7k £37,995. Select Vehicle Sales 01827 66995

E230 Elegance Auto, 96N, 22k miles, FMBSH, Bright Silver, CD, immac, 16" alloys, £19,750. 01383 419255/ 0831 369369 t

E240 Elegance Mar '98 auto. CC. Azurite Blue, Cream lthr, A/C, 1K. £33,950. 0181 883 9148

E200 Elegance '97, 10K, LHD, Manual, High spec. £21,950. Tel: 0181 810 7589

E230 Elegance, 96(N), Auto, Silver, A/C, CD plus many extras, FMBSH, 24k miles. Immaculate. £25,495. 01283 733847

E230 Elegance '97(R) Auto, Silver, leather, climate, RHD, SK, £30K. Tel: 01980 620 308

SAVE Money on all new Mercedes models, European Car Imports. 0181 889 4848. t

SL600, 93, Blue/ Black, Grey lthr, 18K mls, FMBSH, many extras, £52,000. Tel: 01753 647232

SL280 Delivery mileage, just registered, climate control, hard top, 8 hole alloys. £53,995. 01908 374000 or 0836 258758 Specialist Cars

SLK230 arriving this week, Silver, Black/ Red leather, heated seats, airbags, alloys, auto, adj s/ column, high cap batt, music pack, etc. £36,995 or best offer. 01142 728838/ 0956 699480

SLK230 Kompressor, 9k mls, lthr h/seats, ac, immac. £33,500. no dealers. 0161 9735671.

SL320 LHD, R reg, UK, 1 owner, 6,000KM, Silver/blk hide, total spec. £49,950. 0116 2697159 (W) 01664 454728(E).

SL320 L reg, Bornite, Rear seats, Full leather, Excellent condition, FSH, 85,000 miles. £35,950. 01937 586783.

SL 500 1994 M, Azurite Blue/ Cream leather, 1 owner, 28,000 mls, FSH, just serviced, new tyres, CD, air cond, alloys etc. £49,750. 01883 622038

SL 320 1996 Tourmaline/Mush hide 15K FSH Climate Cruise Side A/Bags R/st 8 hole alys £48,500 01372 451122T

SL320
97P, Silver/Grey Leather, ACC, RCS, ESC, 8 Hole Alloys, Pioneer 12 Disc CD, 3250 mls.
Excellent Condition. Offers invited.
0171 731 1772

280SL
First time advertised. Metallic green. 1980. Hard and soft tops. Leather interior. FSH. ABS. Cruise control. 2 seats + platform. Blaupunkt Stereo. Tax + Mot. Excellent condition. £11,500 ovno.
01726 73054/
0181 451 0204/
0181 969 0228.

SL 280
Just reg'd, Dk metallic, cream hide, climate, C/C, front & side airbags, tracker, CD. £53,500

300 SL
91, Black, Black hide, A/C, C/C, HWW, airbag, stereo, FSH. 40k mls. £32,950
01692 404404

MERCEDES WANTED

1987 1996 Premium prices paid for all Mercedes. Glenn Williams 01372 749090.T

JOHN WATSON will race to buy your car. Top prices paid for Mercedes-Benz. Call today 0468 508496 / 01636 830547

SL320 Circa 1994. Private buyer from private seller. 0831 554192 / 0161 303 7394.

WANTED Wanted. All Mercedes, any miles / condition. 01628 526088 / 0831 123911 now T

MG

MGF 1.8, choice of 6, all colours, A/C, PAS, 2 x air bags, low mileage's. £16,995. 01908 374000 or 0836 258758 Specialist cars

Lark Valley Signature USED CARS

190E	1.8 97K White 60T	£9,995
C180	Elegance 96N GmBlk A 12T	£19,995
C180	Elegance 94L White 35T	£17,995
C200	Elegance 96N Black A 15T	£21,495
C230	Komp 96N Red 33T	£23,995
E200	Classic 96N White A 9T	£23,495
E230	A.Garde 96P Silver A 28T	£26,995
230TE	91H Ivory A 68T	£14,495
E280	Estate 95N White A 46T	£28,995
420SEC	91J Blue A 52T	£25,995

Mercedes-Benz
01284 769676
after hours 0802 467676

MERCEDES BENZ SL 600
97R 4000 MILES
AZURITE BLUE
GREY HIDE
TOTAL SPEC
£89,995
DERWENT
01132 465972

MERCEDES

200E Manual, FSH, 1993K, navy blue, excellent condition. £10,000. Tel: 01483 893403

230E J plate, dark grey, only 47,000 miles, in great shape. £7,000. Tel: 0171 224 6790

280SL Delivery mileage, just registered, climate control, hard top, 8 hole alloys. £53,995. 01908 374000 or 0836 258758 T

MG

MGF VVC, 96P, Charcoal/Red lthr, H/Top, CD changer, 17K, £18,000. 01372 472515 Wk / 0467 348972/0171 371 9198.

MGF VVC, July 94, Charcoal 17,000 mls, £16,800. Tel: 0191 239 6128(W)/ 491 3031(eves)

MGRV8 '93 L.
Metallic Carribean Blue. Alarm and Immobiliser. Full half tonneau. HIFI, alloys, FSH. Only 6,500 miles.
£20,950.
01322 664001.

BRAND New MGF'S,
1.8 & VVC up to £1600 off main dealer prices.
As seen on Top Gear
ACC 0181 6601520.

MORGAN

+ 4, 1994, Connaught Green, 4700 miles, nice spec, £22,950 Other cars available, Cheshire Morgans 0161 929 0760

+8 1990
Maroon metallic. Alloy body & wings. Stone leather, alarm, luggage rack, radio, only 19,000 miles, factory serviced. Stunning. £24,500.
01684 568338 (Malvern)

MOTORBIKES

HARLEY DAVIDSON Fat Boy '96 N Superb condition, lots of extras, full HD service history. £10400 ONO can deliver. 01244 322613 (eves).

NISSAN

SKYLINES direct from Japan, new and used. Quicker than a Ferrari and more exclusive. For further information and a test drive call Intercar of London 0181 203 3399

PERFORMANCE CARS

CORVETTE LT1 1996, polo green, sand lthr, manual, FSH, fully loaded, offers £23k. 0181 882 7656 or 0378 351992.

CORVETTE 1998 Models in stock. Warranty. Call American Car Imports Now 0181-889 4545.

LANCIA Integrale Evo, 92K, Monza Red, ESR, EW, Alarm/Immob, FLSH, UK Spec. 17,500 mls £17,000 OVNO. 0181 877 1083

ESCORT
RS Cosworth 1996 (N), 11k mls Immac, tracker imperial blue, (lux model) £26,000.
015394 47091/
0585 441784

PEUGEOT

BRAND NEW Peugeots and 406 Coupe.
Up to £4,000 off Main Dealer Prices. As seen on Top Gear.
ACC: 0181 660 1520.

PORSCHE

911 Carrera Sport Cab, 87D, 44k mls, Collectors Cond, FPSH, White/ Navy E/Roof, Lthr Sports Int, Full Lancaster Service inc New Clutch-Modification. £25,995 ono. 0958 270666

911 Carrera 4S, 96R, Arctic Silver, Rubicon Grey, Aluminium pack inc dials, Sports seats/Chassis, 1,100 miles. As new. Cost £80k 8 weeks ago, accept £76,000. 0116 2740562

911 C4 '90, 49,000 mls, red, black lthr, red piping, FPSH, warranty, A/C. Immaculate £29,990. 01538 384581.

911 Carrera Targa 84, Special Red, 1 Owner, As New, 54K mls, AFN History. £18,500. Office 0181 992 0268

911 Carrera C2 Coupe, 1993, Panther black, 21k miles, FPSH. Mint. £36,500. 0467 460921.

911 Cabriolet aug 95, 2 owner 20k mls, AC, CD, FPSH, alarm, silver £56k Miles 0468 402118.

911 Super Sport Cabriolet, 1989 F reg, Black/Silver leather, Immaculate condition. 18,700 miles. FPSH. £32,995. 0973 820886 / 01992 893978.

911 Turbo 4, 430 bhp, R reg, 2k, Arctic Silver & Grey lthr, List price, no offers. 01322 664568

944 S2 cabriolet, 1990, Burgundy/ lthr, FPSH, 70K mls, full spec. £16,000. 0973 615 564

968 Club Sport, black int, full spec VGC, 93 L, 51,000 mls FPSH, £21,000 01727 867258

968 Coupe, 95M, Grey, Absolutely immac. FSH. £28,750. 0181 500 5589 H/ 01908 219700 W.

986 March '98, Silver, Black hide, Sports pack, Sunroof, CD, Delivery miles. £68,000. Tel: 01223 425938/ 0777 1922837

911 3.6 Turbo, 94L, sports exhaust, Red/Grey leather. £54,500ono.01927 590526

986 '97 R, Silver/Black soft lthr, Sports pack, 18" wheels, many extras, LHD. £49,950 ono. 0181 642 1888 or 0181 646 4466.

BOXSTER Due August 1998, any spec avail, private sale. Premium required. 0161 7242178

SAVE Money on your new Porsche. European Car Imports. 0181 889 4848. t

COLLECTOR'S Dream. 1989 Porsche Speedster, 1 out of 800 ever built. Original 7,000 kms, LHD, First owner, perfect, 1 of the best in existence. £80,000. Call Germany +491716870789

TURBO 4, 1996, Guards red, Custom int, Tech art mods, £8,000 in extras. 15,000 miles. FPSH. Excellent condition. £79,800. 01737 890084 / 0386 830490.

PORSCHE WANTED

WANTED Wanted. All Porsche, any miles / condition. 01628 526088/ 0831 123911 now. T

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

DD 77 £8000 Unique Antique Lucky Number on Escort. Reasonable Offers. Tel: 0141 812 7240

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

MARKET RESEARCH 63 DAISY HILL DRIVE CHORLEY PR6 9NE

6271 AD	1,300	HAZ 404	800	M3 RCX	2,500	8181 RK	2,200
AHK 828	1,400	HK 4741	1,500	3626 MF	1,750	RN 3199	1,600
123 BV	2,400	HRF 110	1,000	M111 LKS	1,200	RT 277	2,750
BW 7370	2,800	JAG 601Y	500	ML 345	1,200	698 RTU	500
DA 44	7,000	JB 1346	3,600	5125 ML	1,400	9439 RW	1,800
2477 DP	1,400	JIL 1965	1,200	MMV 69	1,500	SCT 22	2,200
4020 DP	2,000	JIW 19	1,600	558 MPC	1,800	SJG 400	3,000
ESB 74	1,600	846 KAB	1,800	MPH 6W	600	SJI 3	2,800
FAZ 1221	800	KDL 482	700	MPW 29E	500	541 SMO	1,800
838 GEA	1,200	898 KMC	1,800	5103 NC	1,500	A15 OAN	500
GIL 56	2,500	952 KMG	1,500	N16 ELX	1,500	UF 4	3,800
GOW 257	1,000	KO 5184	600	630 NT	1,950	WA 2160	1,400
2 GU	POA	750 KYC	600	OCJ 414	400	WD 122	2,000
940 GWD	1,000	LAB 305	1,800	A2 OJB	600	1 WGA	5,000
H4 NON	1,000	LEO 30Y	900	PHH 911X	500	XLX 35	1,200
HAZ 401	1,000	792 LMT	1,400	PN 7874	1,600	XUH 4	1,500
HAZ 402	800	2 MA	12,000	RDM 761	2,000	XUH 5	1,500
HAZ 403	800	MIB 9669	800	REG 944X	600	YB 7794	1,200

DVLA AUCTION OF ATTRACTIVE REGISTRATION MARKS
If you are contemplating a bid please consider the benefits of expert advice; we provide comprehensive information, essential when coming to a bid decision; otherwise you may inadvertently bid too much or too little.

PHONE: 01257 482305 FAX: 474745

A1 DWH £1,500 ono. Tel: 01553 769134

5 CLJ £4,000 + VAT ono 01202 300011 Day. 01202 873953 Eve.

H1 RRR On retention, £2,250. Tel: 07970 807148

MOG 45X £700 ono. Tel: 01743 798144.

YYF 25 £1500 Tel: 01983 840623(d) / 840322(e).

WTC 1
£18,500.
Tel:
01672 520232.

MIA 1
£30,000 ono
Call Jim 9 till 3:
0181 671 6061
After on
0961 857254.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS WANTED

CS 1 TO 9 Tel: 01732 882646

REGISTRATION NO.S MIRAD APPROVED

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS

ABW 5TC	£295	5424 LYN	£450
4718 AD	£1495	MA2 9895	£295
ALF 86	£2950	MBB 775	£1250
A70 AJB	£595	MBZ 7880	£1350
BAZ 1082	£395	B18 MGF	£1650
87 CAB	£795	ML 1585	£295
BEV 38X	£895	39 MMP	£1495
BJB 9W	£395	95 MSH	£595
55 BB	£4450	8373MT	£1395
CK 7879	£2250	822MTG	£595
69 CL	£3950	35SL MA	£1150
CNC 38	£1950	ML 1625	£3145
528 DK	£2450	OL 8486	£30
DMP 9W	£595	PAZ 9222	£225
D98 589	£395	PJ 200	£950
989 ECY	£795	PL 2710	£30
EL 1427	£185	PMF 77	£1495
EP 4624	£1450	PJ 100	£1250
ESK 560	£1250	72 PPB	£1950
4 EVY	£1250	PTB 48	£350
ESK 731	£595	RDY 660	£1250
FL 6154	£395	SBW 208	£1250
FBJ 41	£1350	87 SMT	£1950
66 FS	£3750	SPB 11	£3950
GIL 9228	£295	541 SHA	£1450
GTL 671	£595	SME 209	£2250
GJK 88	£1950	SMR 848	£595
5 GLE	£3750	SMM [illegible]	£1350
HAZ 575	£395	SYK 31	£1350
JAC 980	£895	TAZ 7887	£295
JBP 2F	£895	TBP 15	£1450
JCE 742	£1450	TG 9728	£1050
JBD 877	£1450	TLB 488	£595
JL 4185	£295	12 TK	£2950
JBSS	£5450	85 TDD	£1050
JWF 48	£1050	VJ 859	£1050
JMS 428	£595	VCH 101	£1100
KDP 95	£1750	76 WB	£4250
LAZ 8787	£375	WSL 34	£2450
LCK 388	£495	WL 8718	£1250
LES 88	£2950	WMB 343	£350
MOS 180	£395	WMR 897	£1150
LIL 9886	£295	XLI 839	£375
878 LPB	£595	8878 WB	£595
282 LPL	£595		

01255 852255

RENAULT

SAVINGS on new and used Renaults for company and private buyers 01480 812239 T

ESPACE
3.0 RXE V6 Auto. Panoramic. Elec s/r, Blue met, Reg 1998. Delivery mileage only (38 miles only!) Company purchase no longer required. £22,000ono available to view at Renault Coulsdon
0181 668 6262 / Company tel: 01737 787378

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED

WANTED Wanted. Rolls & Bentley Models, Any miles/cond. 01628 526088 or 0831 123911

SAAB AUTHORISED DEALERS

A selection of quality used Saab models including Convertibles at comprehensive prices. Freephone Kentish Saab for full stock list, on 0800 513900 http://www.kentishsaab.co.uk

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

ROLLS ROYCE SILVER SHADOW II
1980. Pewter, Green Everflex Green Interior. Beautiful condition. FSH, 66,000 miles. RREC Member's car.
£14,950.
0181 459 1773

SAAB

9000 CSE Turbo, F reg, Blue, 5,500 mls, A/C, CD, A/bags, lthr seats, £18,250. 0181 883 5192.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

TURBO R 1989 model, Tudor Red/Magnolia hide, piped red, 80K, exc cond, FSH, superb. £26,950. 0171 372 4448.

SAAB

900 SE Turbo convertible, 96P, Auto, air con, leather, Dark Green, 18,500 miles. Immaculate. Offers around £23,500. 0802 203890/0181 946 7986

900S CAB, 97 R, 6k, Red, Black lthr, alloys, CD, alarm, Saab 3 year wty. £21,750. Tel: 01332 832271 or 0831 343902.

TVR

BROUGHTONS of Bristol...the UK's newest TVR dealer serving the Bristol and Avon area. Telephone today for all of your TVR requirements. 0117 930 0388 / 0370 480264.

CHIMAERA 1994 L, Starmist Mica Blue, magnolia half hide, 23,000 miles, FSH, CD, tax & MOT Aug, 6 mths warranty. Immac. £25,500. 01491 873826 or 07970 661662

CHIMAERA 4.3 '93 L in stunning Mica Blue Met, FTVRSH, Sony 10 disc CD, 44K Immac £21,950. 01202 780 181/ 0836 266 166

CHIMAERA 4.0, 95N, Burgundy, Tan Half Lthr, 15k mls, PAS, FSH Excellent Cond, High Spec. £28,000ono 01483 822398

CHIMERA Red/Grey leather, 1993K, 4 Litre, 37,000 miles, FSH, £21,500. 01423 772365.

GRIFFITH 500 (95M), Moonraker black, black half leather, white dials, power steering, CD changer, TVRSH, just serviced, new clutch, beautiful, 37,000 miles. £25,995. 01223 360624 or 0385 283824

GRIFFITH 500, 23,000 miles, M reg, Ocean Blue, FSH, PAS, CD, Grey half hide. Immaculate. £27,250. 0113 2665431(H) or 0802 896229

GRIFFITHS 4.0, 92, FTVRSH, 34k, Exc condition, Green, Tan interior, new tyres, 11 mths warranty. £23,500. 01398 371482(H) 01823 400128(W)

GRIFFITH 500, Dec 94, Cosmos Blue, 18,000 miles, 1 owner, excellent condition, top stereo & alarm systems, half hide. £26,900. Sam 0802 348014

TVR WANTED

WANTED all low mileage TVR's. Please contact Charles Ryston, Mole Valley. 0181 394 1114.

TOYOTA

CHEAPEST Toyotas possible. The Toyota Shop really do try harder. 01520 722536 anytime

VOLKSWAGEN

GOLF Convertible '95 M, Blue, blue elec hood, 90 BHP, Sports wheels, FSH, 28,000 miles. £14,000. Tel: 0973 217908.

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN 1998
Tremendous Savings
On New RHD Models

Sharan 2.0 Basic + A/C, Twin air bags	£15,216
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP, Basic As Above	£16,464
Sharan 2.8 V6 Comfortline	£18,587
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP Comfortline	£17,271
Sharan 1.9 TD 110 BHP Trendline	£17,875

Please Call For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
We Offer Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

NEWBOLDS
TELEPHONE
01623 626272
9.00AM - 6.00PM.
AFTER HOURS TEL: 0589 954586

96P VW POLO 1.4 16V 3DR Dragon Green, 11,000 miles, Alloys, PAS, Electric Pack	£11495
94L VW GOLF 2.0 GTI 16V 3DR Indian Red, 54,000 miles, FSH, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, Thatcham Alarm	£10995
96N VW GOLF 2.0 AVANTGUARD CABRIOLET 24,000 miles, Met Black, Beige Leather, CD, Power Hood	£13995
97P VW GOLF GTI 8 VALVE 5DR Dragon Green, 11,000 miles, ABS, Power Steering, Electric Sunroof	£14795
97R VW GOLF 1.8 90BHP CABRIOLET 3,000 miles, Jade Green, Power Hood, Alloy Wheels	£16995
97R VW PASSAT 1.9 90BHP TDI S Alloys, Tornado Red, 8,000 miles, Sunroof	£15495
97P VW PASSAT 110 TDI SPORT Air Con, Colorado Red, 24,000 miles, Alloys	£16995
97R VW PASSAT 1.8 SPORT AUTO Windsor Blue, 5,000 miles	£17995
97P VW PASSAT 1.8 SE TURBO Air Conditioning, Racing Green, 13,000 miles, Wood Trim, Alloys	£18495
92J VW CORRADO G60 Pearl Green, 60,000 miles, 2 Owners, FSH, ABS, Sunroof, E/W, Alloys	£9995
96N VW SHARAN 2.0 CL 7 SEATER in Black Metallic, 23,000 miles	£12995
97P VW SHARAN 2.0GL Sky Blue, Sunroof, Rails, 10,000 miles	£15995
97R VW SHARAN 1.9 110BHP AUTO Green, 6,000 miles, Air Con, Lowered	£19995

INCLUSIVE OF 12 MONTHS WARRANTY. OVER 50 MORE USED VEHICLES IN STOCK.

FREE NATIONWIDE DELIVERY

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SELF DRIVE
ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS
Drive in luxury all year round!
Arrive at that special occasion in style!
The most competitive rates! Weekend specials!
HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110
Open Sunday 11 - 4

VOLKSWAGEN

EXCELLENT Savings on VW + Audi Vehicles. Other makes available. Contact AIK. Tel: 01582 650680. Fax: 01582 650678

GOLF VR6, 4 dr, M reg, Drag Green, leather, 46k, air, CD, SR, FSH, EBS, lady owner. Beautiful. £15,600. 01872 553533

CORRADO
VR6 Storm. First reg August 95. One owner, 60,000 miles, full dealer service history, leather interior, green metallic bodywork. Alloy wheels, immaculate condition. £15,995.
Tel: 0385 537190.

SCOTTS

96P Golf VR6 3.2 Auto 5dr. Satin Silver, black leather, climate, abs, airbags, traction, s/roof, 230BHP, 16" a/w, 21,680mls	£22,995
97R Golf VR6 5dr. Mystic Blue, black cloth s/seats, airbags, aircon, abs, ele/roof, cw, asc, obc, edm, alloys, 6,380mls	£20,995
96P Golf VR6 Auto 5dr. Dragon Green, black s/seats, climate, abs, traction, airbags, ele/roof, obc, cdl, bbs a/w, 9,762mls	£20,995
97P Golf Avantgarde Convertible Auto. Moonlight Blue, pebble leather, blue p/hood, aircon, airbags, abs, ps body styling, sports exhaust, cdxl, alarm, a/w, 5,100mls	£20,995
97R Golf 90Bhp Convertible. Moonlight Blue, blue sports seats, blue p/hood, e/windows x4, cdl, alloys, 5,680mls	£17,495
96P Golf GTi Anniversary 8V 5dr. Diamond Black, sports seats, aircon, airbags, ele/roof, edm, obc, cdxl, alarm 16" bbs a/w, 1,690mls	£16,995
97P Golf GTi 16V 3dr. Mystic Blue, black cloth s/seats, aircon, abs, traction, airbag, e/windows, obc, a/s/column, edm, 3rd b/light, immob, a/w, 7,160mls	£16,995
96P Golf 90Bhp Convertible. Aqua Blue, blue sports seats, blue p/hood, asc, airbags, c/locking, immobiliser, 13,700mls	£15,495
97P Golf GTi 8V 3dr. Mystic blue, black cloth s/seats, aircon, airbag, abs, obc, ew, a/s/column, alloy wheels 6,160mls	£14,995
96N Golf GTi Colour Concept 3dr. Jazz Blue, blue / black leather s/seats, airbag, ele/roof, abs, cd, alarm, alloys, 21,200mls	£14,995
97P 1.8CL Auto 5dr. Mystic blue, grey cloth, p/steering, airbag, e/windows x4, c/locking, tints, immobiliser, 6,600mls	£12,995
97P Golf 1.6CL 5 dr. Dragon Green, grey cloth, p/steering, airbag, e/windows x4, tints, immobiliser, c/locking, 12,600mls	£11,995
95N Polo 1.6CL 3dr. Dragon Green, grey cloth, abs, pas, airbag, sun roof, cdl, r/h/rests, alloys, 5,190mls	£10,995
96P Polo 1.4CL 5dr. Black, black cloth, p/steering, airbag, e/mirrors, e/windows, a/s/column, rh/rests, 32,000mls	£9,795

0171 737 7133
0171 730 2131

VOLVO

SAVE Money on all new Volvos. U.K. Spec. European Car Imports: 0181 889 4848

EURO CONTINENTAL CARS

VOLVO VOLVO VOLVO
Tremendous Savings
On New 1998 RHD Models
SOME EXAMPLES

Volvo S40 2.0 Basic	£13,448
Volvo V40 2.0 Basic	£14,120
Volvo S40 2.0 CD	£17,277
Volvo V40 TD CD	£18,232
Volvo V40 T4 CD	£21,083
Volvo V70 2.5 10V Basic	£18,797
Volvo V70 2.5 T SE	£23,295
Volvo V70 TDi SE	£22,084
Volvo V70 T5 Basic	£22,483
Volvo V70 R	£28,846

All Other Models & Specifications Available.
Call Now For More Information
Tel: 01703 47 02 08
Fax: 01703 47 17 07
Tremendous Finance Deals
Part Exchange Also Welcome

VOLVO AUTHORISED

VOLVO

97R S40 1.6 ESB, S/Pk	£14,995
97R S40 T4 W/Pk, Met Green	£22,995
97R V40 1.8 SE Auto, H/Pk	£17,495
97R V70 2.5 10v CD Auto, H/Pk	£25,995
97R V70 2.5 10v CD Man, Aqua	£23,995
97P V70 2.5 10v SE Man, Green	£20,995
97P V70 2.5 10v CD Auto, Olive	£23,995
97R V70 R Saffron	£30,995
96R V70 T5 CD Auto, Blue	£31,995
94N 940 SE TD Man Est, Blue	£14,995

TEMPLARS OF ORPINGTON
Tel:01689 878000

VOLVO

SALOONS

96P S40 CD 2.0 Auto, H/Pk, W/Pk	£16,995
97P S70 CD 2.5 10v Auto, W/Pk	£21,995
97P S70 CD 2.5T Auto, CD, W/Pk	£24,495
96N 850 SE 2.0 20v, A/C	£12,495
97P 850 CD 2.5 20v, C/C, Lthr	£18,995

ESTATES

97K V40 1.8 C/Pk, Spl/Pk, 7K	£16,495
97P V40 CD 2.0 H/Pk, Wood Wheel	£18,495
96M 850 GLT 2.5 20v, Ally, R/R, ESR	£15,995
97P 850 CD T5 Auto, C/C	£24,495
97P 850 CD T5 Man, R/Pk, E/Roof	£25,495
97R V70 R Auto, Dalby Sound	£31,995
97R V70 SE 2.5 20v Auto, W/Pk	£22,495
97P V70 CD 2.5 10v Auto, W/Pk, 10K	£22,495
97R V70 CD 2.5T Auto, W/Pk, R/Pk, 7k	£26,495
97P V90 CD 3.0 (204BHP) Auto, R/Pk	£25,495

TAMPLINS OF CROYDON
Nationwide Delivery
Open 7 Days - Sun 11am - 5pm
Tel: 0181 689 2020
WWW.TAMPLINS.CO.UK

ROLLS—ROYCE & BENTLEY

Wyndham
01222 597722

Continental R 1997 Royal Blue/Magnolia	4,000 miles
Turbo RL 1997 Choice of Three Under	10,000 miles
Turbo R 1990 Vermillion/Beige	43,000 miles
Brooklands R LPT 1997 Black Garnet/Sand	1,600 miles
Brooklands 1995 Royal Blue/Fawn	24,000 miles
Brooklands 1995 Wildberry/Silverstone	9,000 miles
Flying Spur 1994 Royal Ebony/Parchment	27,000 miles
Silver Spirit III 1996 Wildberry/Parchment	6,000 miles
Silver Spirit III 1993 Royal Blue/Parchment	46,000 miles

GUARANTEED MOTOR CARS

Why cara... not a tota...

Buying a classic cat's no mad jag

هكذا من الأصل

Mobile holiday homes can be great fun — so long as you are not the poor wretch trying to have a good time in the face of wind, rain and family rows

Why caravans are not a total drag

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



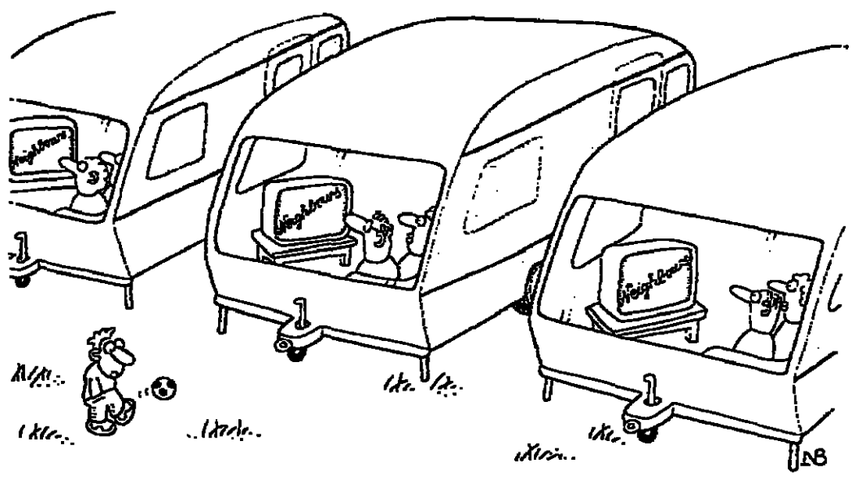
Peter Barnard

The coastal town where I live does not have any large caravan sites, which, as regular readers will know, is a source of great sadness to me: there is nothing I enjoy more than being in a country lane behind a mobile Nissen hut with the aerodynamics of an elephant and the elegance of a Vinnie Jones tackle. Still, one cannot have everything in life.

There is the compensation of a few small caravan sites, run by farmers under the set-aside scheme: they have set aside a couple of fields for caravans as an easier way of making money than growing vegetables that nobody wants or grazing cows that show every sign of having gone soft in the head. These sites often have entrances that enable drivers towing caravans to give a lengthy exhibition of their reversing skills, assisted by the shouts and hand signals of local residents who look forward to the Easter arrival of these travelling entertainers.

I noticed a light covering of caravans early this week, as soon as the school holidays began, but by this morning they will be dotted about the countryside like oilseed rape. With the right camera equipment you can achieve some wonderful effects by photographing the seasonal April hailstones bouncing on the caravan roofs: do try to include the terrified faces at the caravan window, convinced that their holiday home is being machinegunned.

Some people get annoyed at the number of caravans on the roads, but bored children looking for new methods of entertainment can be kept quiet for hours with a game this column is shortly to patent. It works well in a strong crosswind and involves the players having to decide which lane a car and caravan will be visiting next and whether the car will occupy one lane while the caravan is in a different one. Variants include a bonus-point system: a child who spots a caravan parked on the hard shoulder in which someone is boiling a kettle or watching a football match on a portable television scores ten.



Sometimes caravans can serve an important road-safety function, which is why I am only too pleased when an underpowered car hoves into view pulling an oversized van, for this will serve to slow down the 10,000 vehicles travelling behind the caravan, thus ensuring that the speed limit is rigorously enforced. I expect that the Association of Chief Police Officers holds an annual charity event in aid of the Caravan Club of Great Britain.

Mind you, the role of the caravanner in crawling about the road network adding to everyone else's enjoyment may assist the police in one way but they don't half add to the criminal statistics once they come to a halt. An insurance company survey recently found that 5,000 caravans are broken into every summer (there are no figures for the number of people trying to break out). The caravans are most at risk when they are parked outside their owners' houses, which may explain why caravanners are so keen to keep on the move.

When they are not moving, caravanners are parked in "beauty spots", where they gaze through the rain at the particularly beautiful caravan parked six feet away. Those who say caravanners are mad to go to places where all they can see are other caravans have missed an important point: because of the weather, most caravanners spend their holiday watching television and some of the scenery in Sir David Attenborough's wildlife films is quite breathtaking.

And then there is the element of tradition. All around the caravan site can be heard the sounds that make up the English rural idyll: children twittering ceaselessly, parents barking at each other about who left the Gameboy console on the dining room table 520 miles away, the community spirit engendered as search parties set off in pursuit of escaped pets.

If this imagery has so whetted your appetite that you cannot imagine how you have survived thus far without a caravan, I suggest you lie down in a darkened room for a couple of hours. If the urge does not go away, visit a showroom immediately and spend an hour in a caravan with three children and a dog. That usually does the trick.

Buying a classic cat's no mad jag

Michael Evans found swapping his Ford Sierra for an 11-year-old XJ12 limousine made perfect sense



Michael Evans, wife Nicky, and the Jaguar he bought with only 24,000 miles on the clock. It has proved a favourite for the school run

It wasn't easy exchanging my six-year-old Ford Sierra for an 11-year-old near-classic Jaguar Sovereign XJ12 with leather upholstery, pepper-pot wheels, electric everything and cruise control. It took a chat with a friend who had already indulged, and a two-hour session with one of the country's leading experts in second-hand Jags to convince me.

What makes a man turn to a Jaguar after many years of driving, in chronological order, an Allegro, a Renault 12, a Ford Cortina, a brown (brown!) Sierra, a black Sierra GLS and a grey 2.3 Sierra?

Before coming to the obvious conclusion, I have to say that I started my driving life at the age of 18 in an Austin Sheerline limousine which had headlamps twice the size of the ones on my Jaguar and even more legroom. The glamour of the Sheerline provided a benchmark that has clearly remained with me ever since.

There was nothing wrong with the Sierra: it had given me trouble-free, no-nonsense motoring since I bought it in 1991. But it was time for an exchange. After visiting a Ford main dealer and examining a range of Mondeos, including a fairly fancy one costing about £17,000, I decided I could do better . . . and cheaper.

Buying a Jaguar involves a number of apparent contradictions. Far too expensive, I was warned, terrible on petrol, a nightmare to insure, too big, too fat, a car for crooks.

Well, it *is* big but certainly not fat. It has lines that most modern cars only dream about. It *is* more expensive on petrol than the Sierra and uses four-star leaded in its twin tanks, but, provided you don't drive like a maniac, the V12 is not nearly as thirsty as I thought it would be, and of course, the smaller-engined Jags, like the 4.2, have better fuel consumption.

With less than 24,000 miles on the clock — it was owned by an elderly gentleman from new and driven sparingly by a chauffeur — the Jag was on sale for £11,000 (far more tempting than the £17,000 Mondeo). The seller, Robert Hughes, who runs a classic Jaguar business in Weybridge, Surrey, said the annual service costs would be about £230; spares were plentiful and tyres would be cheap. Fully comprehensive insurance was £300 a year through the Jaguar Car Club; the Sierra was costing me £490.

Robert Hughes knows his Jags. He is an acknowledged authority and keeps them by the two dozen in a warehouse. He has just written a book, *Jaguar/Daimler — An Appreciation of Production Models, 1960-1970*.

Once resolved to make the jump from family saloon to luxury, powerful motoring, the tricky thing is to decide which model to buy. The Series 1 XJ6 Jags, from 1968 to late 1973, have the classiest front and a stylish walnut dashboard, the Series 2 from 1973 to early 1979 is probably the cheapest to run and the most practical, and has more refined heating and steering. The Series 3, from 1979 to 1986, has fuel injection and even more refinements.

I went to Weybridge with the idea of looking at (not buying) a Series 3 XJ6 4.2, and ended up buying a dark grey Series 3 XJ12 Sovereign HE (high fuel efficiency).

Driving the Jag is like entering a different world. It smells different and feels different. You can sense the weight, especially if both tanks are full, but with relatively light steering and the pleasure that you derive from knowing that a beautifully crafted V12 engine is sitting under the polished bonnet — as well as the comforting fact that Jaguar installed certain safety features before other manufacturers even thought about them — the heaviness of the car becomes a positive feature.

The Budget could have knocked the smile off my face. There had been speculation that the Chancellor planned to introduce a graded system for road tax, the bigger the engine, the larger the tax. But while he increased the price of petrol, and promised a £50 tax break for small cars, Gordon Brown resisted the temptation to punish the big-car owners with a steep rise in road tax . . . at least for this year.

I began by deciding to use the Jaguar only for "proper" journeys, like weekend trips but I soon changed my mind. It was spending far too much time sitting outside the house. Now I use it as often as possible, including driving to work on occasions and popping the youngest son to school. He loves it.

To test its motoring qualities more thoroughly, I took the Jag to France for three days and drove it in leisurely fashion — most of the time — to Les Andelys, near Rouen. Occasionally, to pass a tractor trailer heaped with bales of hay, I pressed the accelerator enthusiastically and was rewarded with a surge of such power that you could feel the kick even through the firm leather upholstery. The straight French roads were swallowed up but the increased noise from the engine was almost imperceptible.

The classic lines of the Jaguar impressed everyone in Les Andelys, more accustomed to coughing Deux Chevaux and zippy Peugeots. I parked it in the inner gravelled courtyard of my hotel and when I left, reversing it slowly through an ancient arch, several of the staff came out to watch.

I reprimanded them gently, reminding them that only the previous year I had reversed out of the same courtyard in my Sierra but no one came to see me off.

"Mais oui, monsieur, mais c'est un Jaguar, n'est ce pas? C'est different," said the waiter. *Vive la difference*, I thought.

Robert Hughes Autos 01932 858381. His book is available from bookshops or Starling Distribution, 01932 829214.

UNLEADED THREAT

■ WHAT if the Jaguar's diet of four-star leaded petrol is prohibited under new European Union laws and only unleaded fuel is left on sale? Robert Hughes says there are a number of options: since 1967, Jaguars have been fitted with sintered (hardened) valve seats and could run on super octane unleaded petrol, provided the ignition timing is retarded slightly.

■ JAGUAR does not recommend running these cars on ordinary premium unleaded, but Robert Hughes says it is possible to fit hardened valve seats, valve guides and exhaust valves for about £600 for a 4.2 model and £1,000 for a V12.

■ IN THE United States and Germany there are already fuel additives that do the trick. Although there is no suitable additive available in Britain at present, there is every reason to believe that if four-star leaded is banned, similar additives will be on sale in this country.

IN BRIEF

Rallying round for a wee dram

■ SCOTCH corners are lying in wait for nearly 100 vintage and classic cars taking part in Scotland's newest motoring event from May 2-7. Competitors from 13 countries driving 20 makes of car are to join the Classic Malts Scottish Six-Day Reliability Trial, run by the Historic Endurance Rallying Organisation, Hero. The trial starts in Edinburgh and will take in classic malt whisky distilleries.

Nöel's Merc

■ SIR Nöel Coward's specially built 1967 Mercedes-Benz 250SE Cabriolet is among the vehicles to be auctioned by Brooks at the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart, Germany, next Saturday. Sir Nöel, who had the car delivered to his home beside Lake Geneva, owned it until his death in 1973. Also on sale is a 1910 Mercedes-Simplex 14/30 six-seater tourer thought to be the earliest survivor of its type.

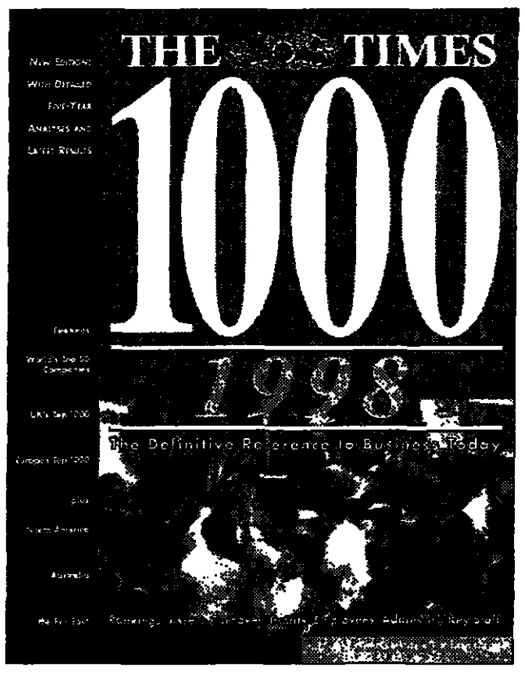
Bike cover

■ MOTORCYCLE insurer, Hastings Direct, has launched a scheme to give bikers the sort of cover motorists have long enjoyed. It includes a 24-hour helpline, free collection and delivery within a 30-mile radius, storage of damaged bikes, two-year guarantee on repairs, and lifetime warranty on paint. For information call: 01424 735735.

GET THE FACTS *and* THE FIGURES

The Times 1000 1998

Published every year since 1967



The definitive business reference

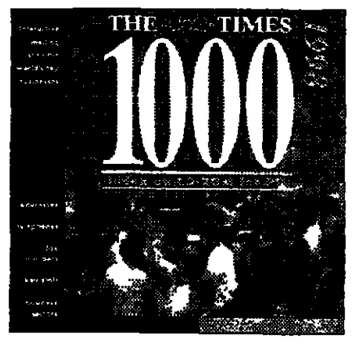
With full listings of the UK's and Europe's top 1000 companies

£40

NEW for 1998
The Times 1000 Index on CD-Rom

The ready-made mailing list to 2000 of the world's largest businesses

£150 (inc. VAT)



SPECIAL OFFER

Buy the book *and* the CD for just £170 (inc. VAT)

TO ORDER

our 24-hour telephone ordering service on **0181 307 4052**

or send this coupon to **Dept. 941X, HarperCollins*Publishers*, Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 2QT.**

Please send me ____ copy/ies of The Times 1000 1998 @ £40

Please send me ____ copy/ies of The Times 1000 1998 Index on CD-Rom @ £150 (inc. VAT)

Please send me ____ copy/ies of The Times 1000 1998 book and CD pack @ £170 (inc. VAT)

I enclose a cheque for £ ____ made payable to HarperCollins*Publishers* or please debit my MasterCard/Visa (delete where necessary)

Card No. ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry date: ____/____ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other title ____

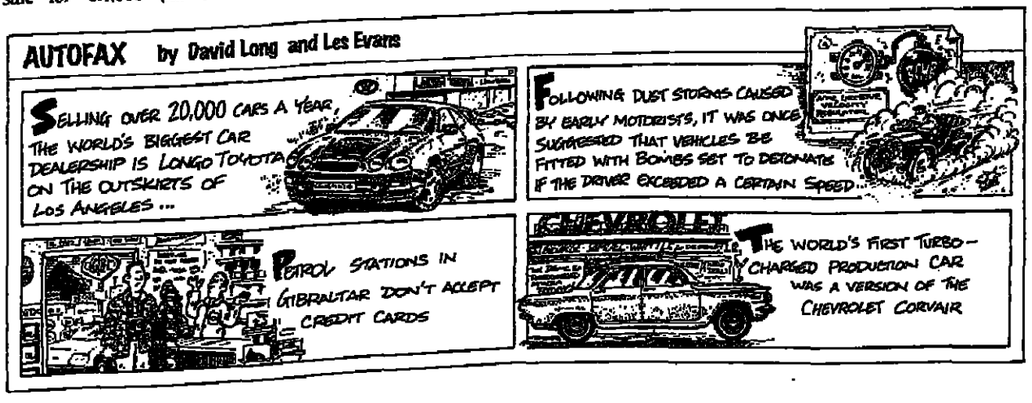
Surname ____ Initials ____

Address ____

____ Postcode ____

Signature ____ **Please allow 21 days delivery**

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AB BOWETT UNIT TRUST LTD
0171 378 7879 Dealing: 0171 407 7088
Protected Funds

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Safeguard	142.75	152.12	+ 0.19	..
Do NAV to Mar 29	140.18	149.15		
Uk Equity Safeguard	113.15	121.09†	+ 0.19	2.02
Do NAV to Mar 29	110.61	118.61		
US Equity Safeguard	9525.00	# 101.06	-40.00	..
Cash	957.67	962.46	+ 1.00	5.75
Uk Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	432.20	459.80	+ 1.70	1.48
Uk Small Cos	95.08	101.68	+ 0.05	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	113.23	121.09	+ 1.39	1.89
Balanced UK Index	3839.90	3998.05†	+11.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	85.19	88.32	+ 0.56	8.56
Monthly Inc	45.65	48.63†	- 0.28	7.90
International Funds				
American Gen	326.70	346.40	- 7.50	
American Strat	241.02	257.77	- 4.58	
US US Index	2613.65	2783.83	-59.00	4.00
European Gen	412.60	436.70	+ 4.60	0.86
European Strat	177.33	189.73	- 0.07	
Japan Gen	100.50	106.50	+ 3.50	
Asia Pacific	65.69	70.35	+ 1.15	1.69
Pacific Strat	103.17	110.33	+ 3.19	
Emerg Chins	198.95	212.84	+ 3.91	
Latin America	107.94	114.34	- 1.56	
Int Growth	183.52	195.27	- 0.20	0.11
Balanced Exempt	162.40	169.70	+ 0.10	1.77
Global Strategy	49.49	52.92	- 0.44	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

General Acc	988.90	1052.00	+ 2.00	2.17
General Inc	801.30	852.40	+ 1.20	2.17
Uk Growth Acc	668.00	723.40	+ 2.00	2.16
Uk Growth Inc	626.50	653.70	+ 2.30	2.16
Higher Inc Acc #	1283.00	1364.00	+ 2.00	4.07
Higher Inc Inc #	647.10	688.30	+ 10.60	4.07
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	241.30	254.80	+ 0.60	5.54
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	96.05	103.50	+ 0.30	5.54
Nth America	474.70	505.00	- 11.40	
Europe	571.50	607.90	- 0.30	0.46
Ind Fxed	134.80	143.40	+ 0.30	3.02
Int Fixed Acc	170.00	180.80	+ 0.30	3.90
Int Fixed Inc	107.50	114.30	+ 0.20	3.90
Global Opps	134.80	143.50	+ 0.20	0.22
Balanced Acc	83.09	88.39	+ 0.26	2.11
Balanced Inc	75.25	80.05	+ 0.25	2.11
Japan Acc	32.68	34.76	+ 1.49	
Far Eastn Acc	295.20	314.00	+ 7.00	2.13

AXA SUN LIFE FUND MGRS LTD
Enquiries: 0117 900 9000

Discretionary	68.72	74.17	+ 0.37	
Uk Income Inc	89.25	94.97	- 0.15	2.14
Extra Inc Inc #	42.69	44.61	+ 0.25	6.04
High Yld Inc	130.00	138.30	+ 0.50	2.90
Inc & Gth Inc	121.40	129.20		2.27
UK Smaller Cos	48.65	51.03	- 0.26	1.75
Pacific Gth Pen	35.92	38.21	+ 0.54	0.83

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
01245 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	148.40	157.40†	- 0.60	5.68
High Inc Equity	251.20	268.70†	- 1.10	3.75
Worldwide Bond	270.60	286.90†	+ 1.20	5.49
American Growth	393.70	423.20†	-12.50	0.20
Asian Pacific	229.80	245.80	+ 5.50	0.50
Assets & Earnings	405.10	433.20	- 0.70	2.36
Emrg Capital Acc	295.00	315.50	- 3.00	0.63
Extra Inc	44.29	47.33†	- 0.11	8.79
General	366.20	389.60†	- 1.60	3.52
Global Opps	85.43	90.88	- 0.31	0.35
Japan	75.46	80.71	+ 3.74	
Managed Inc	56.85	60.45†	- 0.10	4.22
Managed Acc	307.90	327.40	- 0.40	7.00
US Emerging Cos	739.70	786.40	- 8.70	
Ethical	106.00	112.80	- 0.70	1.62
International	157.70	167.80	- 1.50	0.56
Dividend & Growth	93.30	99.25†	- 0.60	3.61
Special Sits Gen & Sec	80.32	85.42	- 0.06	2.36
Latin America	79.81	84.90	- 1.42	0.79
Capital Reserve	156.50	166.60	- 0.30	4.46

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8500

M&P UK Growth	133.30	141.70	- 0.20	1.61
Equity Income #	183.30	195.00†		3.27
Extra Income #	338.50	367.30†	- 1.20	6.78
Smaller Cos	111.40	118.50†	- 0.50	1.82
International	149.80	159.30	- 0.50	0.70

ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD
Enq. 0345 089 666 Dlg: 0800 833 500

Amer Opp Acc	409.49	431.03	- 8.29	
Emrg Mkts Inc	62.31	66.93	+ 0.06	
Ethical Inc	96.51	102.11	- 1.32	0.50
Euro Gwth Acc	143.48	149.59	+ 0.01	
Euro Smlr Coys Acc	145.24	153.68	- 0.65	
Exec Inc Inc	252.49	266.49†	+ 0.35	3.80
Extra Inc Acc	347.42	366.69	+ 0.48	3.60
FE Emrg Econ	81.41	86.14	+ 1.64	0.78
Fixed Int Inc #	30.45	31.96	+ 0.03	7.45
Frontier MN Inc	78.51	83.07	- 1.24	
Fund Of Inv Inc #	233.13	246.10†	- 2.13	7.70
Fund Of Inv Acc	488.62	511.12	- 4.63	7.70
Gilt Inc Inc #	51.28	53.43†	+ 0.01	5.38
Capital Bond Inc	49.84	45.64	+ 0.19	4.65
Global Inc Inc	34.05	35.84	- 0.01	3.35
Global Inc Acc	52.34	55.06	- 0.02	3.35
High Inc Inc	191.85	203.00	+ 0.03	3.37
High Inc Acc	254.92	268.02	+ 0.04	3.37
Japan Inc	140.24	148.40	+ 2.91	
Latin Amer Inc	69.47	73.50	- 1.30	
Master Inc Inc	69.25	73.27†	+ 0.25	2.40
Master Gwth Inc	64.22	67.95†	+ 0.32	0.21
North Amer Inc	285.25	301.19	- 1.28	
North Amer Acc	286.63	301.56	- 7.29	
Pacific Inc	57.35	60.68†	+ 1.05	0.26
Prop Share Inc	101.20	107.07	- 1.10	0.97
Recovery Inc	118.82	125.73	- 0.97	1.71
Recovery Acc	195.08	147.93	- 0.98	1.31
Special Sit Inc	190.62	201.70	- 2.06	0.80
Special Sit Acc	215.88	228.46	- 2.33	0.80
Tech Inc	865.31	910.81	- 22.92	
Tech Acc	865.31	910.81	- 22.92	
UK Blue Chip Inc	130.68	137.26	+ 0.66	2.20
UK Blue Chip Acc	157.31	165.17	+ 0.08	2.20
UK Emrg Cos Inc	85.49	92.41	- 3.36	0.72
UK Gwth Inc	79.48	83.67†	- 0.53	0.95
World Pos Inc #	101.27	107.15	- 0.04	1.79

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

Uk Small Cos	2774.00	2885.00		

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 9868

Resstl Property #	108.60	115.50		5.50

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Arny Income	116.70	123.82†	- 0.45	1.60
Income Builder Inc	109.63	116.83	+ 0.16	2.82

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01253 626 911

Cancel Out Plans	155.80	161.90		
Fenwith Pssst Plans	90.79	94.32		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4252

American Gro Cos	490.90	519.90	- 18.20	
Bond	124.10	130.40†	+ 0.30	6.30
Bell Smlr Cos	120.40	126.10	- 1.50	1.81
Europe	435.40	461.70	+ 0.40	
Euro Smlr Cos	144.30	153.50	+ 0.30	0.70
High Income #	77.58	82.53	+ 0.17	4.89
Income	476.50	506.90†	- 1.40	3.38
Japan	264.50	280.70	+ 3.50	
Latin American	110.20	117.20	- 1.50	
Pacific	79.91	84.98†	- 1.10	1.19
UK Smlr Cos	71.65	76.22	- 0.62	0.90
Japanese Sm Cos	447.60	461.60	- 8.00	
Mngd Fd	270.70	287.20†	- 0.10	2.10

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 8673

Brit & Overs	470.90	492.80	+ 3.20	0.70
Capital Gwth	186.80	197.60	+ 1.40	2.13
Wrldw Oppr	261.20	276.30	+ 2.10	0.79

BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000
Income Funds

Cash	100.20	100.20†	+ 0.10	6.80
Cash Acc	133.50	133.50	+ 0.20	6.80
Income #	818.60	873.10	- 2.40	3.36
Income Builder #	92.73	98.75†	- 0.37	4.01
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	126.10	134.20	- 0.60	1.67
500	594.40	639.10†	- 3.70	1.56
General	480.40	511.10†	- 1.60	1.17
Property	273.10	290.10		5.56
Trustee	338.70	355.60	- 0.80	1.13
Growth Funds - Uk				
Capital	214.10	228.90	- 0.70	1.08
FTSE 100	156.60	166.20	- 0.50	1.37
Growth Acc	674.70	717.80	- 2.60	1.13
Smaller Cos	87.91	93.49	- 0.72	1.65
Smaller Cos Acc	83.51	88.86	- 0.26	1.65
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	264.10	278.80	- 5.00	
American Growth	182.60	192.60	- 3.50	
Japan	92.43	97.59†	- 5.96	
Japan Acc	92.50	98.71	- 6.03	
Japan Spec Sits	45.56	48.04	- 2.42	
Overseas	248.10	258.30	- 0.80	0.58
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	50.49	53.21†	- 0.24	6.47
Mngd Gwth & Inc #	50.97	53.82†	- 0.10	..
Managed Growth	53.85	56.96	- 0.27	0.60
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Exclusive 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	143.30	153.90†	- 0.10	4.58
Equity Income #	136.90	210.00†	- 0.10	3.54
Gilt & Fixed Int	68.11	67.40†	- 0.27	6.68
Int Fixed Int	100.10	103.40	- 0.10	6.02
Irn Fixed Int Acc	129.70	134.00	- 0.20	5.02
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	617.70	653.90	- 1.30	1.76
UK Growth Acc	614.70	650.90	- 1.90	1.16
Growth & Inc	629.40	666.50	- 1.40	1.15
Growth & Inc Acc	1350	1427	- 3.00	1.15
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Gwth**	296.80	313.70	- 0.40	0.33
Euro Growth Acc	302.30	342.80	- 0.40	0.23
Far Eastern Gwth	138.50	146.50	- 0.40	0.49
Far East Gth Acc	197.90	210.50	- 4.10	0.49

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1804

American Growth	208.20	219.60	- 3.70	
Asian Smlr Cos	183.00	191.30	- 5.70	
Eastern	168.70	181.00	+ 4.90	0.36
Extra Inc Income #	147.70	151.00	- 0.70	4.00
Extra Inc Growth	526.20	555.10	+ 1.60	0.80
Europe	511.60	554.10	- 0.10	0.80
German Growth	159.60	168.20	- 16.80	0.50
Global Bond	75.18	79.08	- 0.77	5.16
Global Growth	214.30	226.90	- 1.10	0.10
Japan Growth	113.10	119.90	+ 6.90	
Japan Smaller	79.23	83.95	+ 3.86	
Money Trust	30.84	33.47	- 4.64	
Portfolio	201.70	214.50†		1.83
-do- Accum	391.40	416.60		1.80
Uk Growth	160.10	170.90	+ 0.20	1.50
Uk Smaller Cos	152.70	162.20	+ 1.00	1.00
Select Managers	107.10	114.40	- 0.30	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRARIS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 1000

Int Earth Pent Inc	112.50	119.70		
Sword Opps Inc	63.26	67.30		

BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD
0141 223 8620

Balanced Growth	253.17	222.37†	- 2.69	3.72
-do- Accum	253.79	253.84	- 3.19	0.72
Smaller Cos	217.79	229.85	- 2.35	0.15
-do- Accum	254.98	267.77	- 3.23	0.15
Higher Yield #	60.27	123.61†	- 1.65	3.21
-do- Accum #	123.12	128.66	- 1.74	3.21
American Gth Inc	146.78	154.58	- 3.71	
European Growth	240.81	255.01†	- 3.75	
-do- Accum	260.05	280.42	- 3.23	
Managed Pfolio Inc	66.72	69.54†	- 0.72	1.15
-do- Accum	70.29	73.22	- 0.13	1.18
Int Spec Opps	257.19	280.65	- 0.56	
Pacific Gwth	112.23	116.91	- 4.89	0.91
Uk General #	142.96	148.43	- 1.49	2.36
-do- Accum #	158.90	165.57	- 1.66	2.36
Japan	37.69	39.15	- 1.59	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	112.91	117.61†	- 0.84	7.36

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 489 7216

Short Dated Gilt	64.72	65.55†	- 0.03	6.38

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Europe	249.40	262.50	- 1.80	1.19
Uk Growth	315.70	332.30	- 1.80	1.15
Uk Income	213.60	224.80†	- 1.30	3.05

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 892 100

Can Gen Dist	315.90	334.90	+ 0.70	1.02
-do- Income Dist	151.00	191.80	+ 1.60	2.64
-do- Accum	610.80	647.40	+ 5.50	2.64
Gilt & Fxd Int	44.82	47.10	+ 0.16	4.61
Growth Units	361.30	406.80†	+ 1.00	1.42
Bond	182.80	202.80†	+ 1.70	5.67
Intl Growth	360.20	378.60	- 0.90	0.28
North American	364.90	381.30	- 9.10	..
Far East	195.60	209.20	+ 4.00	1.01
UK Smaller Cos	313.30	335.10	+ 1.10	0.86
European	141.60	150.50	- 0.20	0.43
Japanese Growth	27.74	29.40†	+ 0.03	..
High Income	515.50	337.70†	+ 2.70	2.54
Managed Pfolio	240.63	256.19	- 0.49	0.09
Portfolio	108.91	119.54	+ 0.48	1.04
Uif Income Inc	134.48	143.05†	+ 0.06	3.30

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0181 891 7455

American & Gen	330.30	348.70†	+ 1.50	
European Inc	153.20	162.70	+ 1.30	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	127.10	136.30†	- 0.20	1.52
Growth	800.90	852.70†	+ 2.40	1.53
Income & Growth #	687.90	712.70	+ 0.30	3.76
-do- Accum #	1066.50	1134.80	+ 0.50	3.76
Japan & Gen	47.16	49.96†	+ 1.57	..
Hallmark Gwth	1675.00	1745.00†	+ 7.00	1.31
-do- Accum	2116.00	2205.00	+ 9.00	1.31
Special Sits	165.30	197.20	+ 0.40	1.22
High Yield	2189.00	2257.00	+ 1.00	3.22

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0700

Convertible Portfolio	126.73	134.80	+ 0.35	2.74
American Portfolio	182.43	193.74	- 1.72	0.41
European Portfolio	207.66	220.82†	+ 4.73	0.29
High Income	97.16	60.12	+ 0.13	6.23
Japanese Portfolio	44.00	47.02†	+ 1.02	
Pacific Portfolio	118.84	125.84	+ 1.58	1.16
Uk Equity	131.13	138.83†	+ 0.14	2.55
UK Equity & Bd	74.67	79.35	+ 0.16	4.79
Uk Smlr Cos	61.85	65.16†	- 0.22	1.73

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Ind Fd Inc	1065.84	1102.26	+25.42	3.15
Ind Fd Acc	1128.77	1145.33	+26.90	
Fixed Int Sec Inc	169.45	170.13	+ 1.62	7.52
Fxd Int Sec Acc	184.67	185.41	+ 1.75	

CBF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	1035.46	1051.10	+ 8.16	3.31
Investment Acc	5067.75	5144.35	-26.50	
Fixed Int Inc	135.49	136.03	+ 0.15	7.65
Fixed Int Acc	380.29	381.41	+ 0.30	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 566 8800

Exchange Unit	102.46	107.73	+ 1.60	5.74
Recovery Unit	41.68	44.78	- 1.92	
Back Bio-Tech	41.68	44.78	- 1.92	
Asian Ethical Tst	230.68	248.72		0.49
City Fin Assets	101.00	105.06†	+ 0.76	2.66
City Fin Inst	97.10	102.39	+ 1.25	
Hedge Fund Cap	438.39	458.27	+ 5.39	2.03
Buckley Wrld Gth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	93.96	98.34	- 0.83	3.15

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 51.32 54.45 + 0.28 .

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 777 233

American Gwth	142.73	117.80	- 1.32	
Dragon Growth	48.19	49.33	- 0.91	1.21
Equity High Inc #	135.74	143.64†	+ 0.28	3.78
Euro Income Acc	305.89	217.87	- 0.55	3.78
Extra Income Inc	29.46	31.06†	+ 0.31	5.57
Extra Income Acc	34.12	37.61	+ 0.38	5.57
European Gwth	104.30	110.27	+ 3.23	
Emerging	40.76	43.58	+ 0.71	
General Equity	156.72	165.40	+ 0.62	1.73
Japan Growth	39.69	32.65	+ 0.67	
Japanese Special	125.40	133.40	+ 6.90	
Money Market	104.18	104.18†	+ 0.07	6.00
North American	161.90	172.10	- 3.20	
Smaller Cos	166.30	176.10	- 0.30	0.80
Smlr Cos Div	77.90	82.67	+ 0.32	4.20
Tomorrows Co Eq	1404.00	1424.00	+11.00	0.10
Uk Equity Growth	710.50	753.70		1.68
Uk Index Inv	466.30	497.60	+ 1.50	2.40
Uk Recovery Tst	131.00	140.80†	+ 1.20	1.30
Global Income	274.50	292.00	+ 0.80	2.70

COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD
01634 898 000

Balanced	93.41	86.26	+ 0.28	2.98
Capital	118.69	121.35	+ 0.69	1.68
High Income	58.34	60.77	+ 0.26	6.25
Top 50	88.29	91.87	+ 0.45	1.55

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)
Income Funds

Equity Inc	266.83	276.03†	+ 0.03	3.66
Long Gilt	53.46	55.31†	+ 0.23	4.69
Managed Inc Plus	63.89	65.52†	+ 0.27	5.84
-do- Accum	77.53	80.17	+ 0.46	5.84
Preference Share	60.28	62.60†	+ 0.31	6.21
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	183.92	191.80†	+ 0.83	5.03
Managed Fund	94.21	98.15†	+ 0.41	3.16
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	97.65	60.57†	- 0.28	1.41
-do- Accum	69.83	72.75†	- 0.34	1.41
UK & General	142.27	148.21†	+ 0.32	1.83
-do- Accum	191.76	199.77†	+ 0.44	1.83
Uk Growth	283.20	295.03†	+ 0.63	1.33
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	343.05	357.39†	+ 1.74	0.38
Far Eastern Gth	94.31	98.25†	+ 2.89	0.29
Global Bond	70.58	73.53†	+ 0.36	5.21
Japan Growth	82.19	85.62†	+ 4.00	..
North Amer Gth	348.91	364.53†	- 6.94	..
Oriental Growth	58.02	61.44†	+ 1.16	0.81
Worldwide Growth	93.72	97.64†	+ 0.30	0.77
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	91.57	91.57†	+ 0.06	6.82
Homeowner Fund	115.62	123.01	+ 1.00	1.87

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 588 6800

Consistent Ut	49.09	52.36	+ 0.21	2.46

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	228.30	242.95	- 0.20	1.45
Income	99.29	105.62	- 0.38	3.23
European Growth	115.60	122.70	+ 0.10	
Recovery	245.20	258.90†	+ 0.10	1.70

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	1397.30	1416.10	.	3.05

CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

European Inc	105.90	111.80	..	0.28
Fellowship Tst	139.39	148.00	- 1.20	0.90
Income #	386.30	420.40	- 0.70	3.30
-do- Accum #	1093.00	1152.00	- 2.00	..
Smaller Cos	371.79	388.00	- 3.80	0.64
-do- Accum	340.80	362.38	- 4.80	0.64
Gen Portfolio	138.40	148.26	- 0.10	1.02
Mthly Inc Port #	115.90	123.20	- 0.20	3.17

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 470 1834

Global Sm Cos	1980.70	2006.70	.	0.47
UK Small Cos	2518.70	2623.30	.	3.37

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 6818

Disc Inc	296.20	305.40	.	

DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD
Dealers:0171 556 7354 Client Helpline:0800 317573
Formerly RBUT

Amer Smlr Cos	238.70	245.40	- 3.90	..
Asian Growth	187.90	199.80	+ 5.70	0.30
Bond Income	112.00	116.10†	+ 0.60	6.40
European	297.70	316.60	+ 1.10	0.40
European Priv	154.00	163.80	+ 1.10	0.70
European Special	210.30	223.70	+ 7.20	..
Gbl Yield	132.20	140.32†	+ 0.80	5.10
Global Emrg Inc	156.00	165.50	+ 1.00	3.90
High Yield #	238.30	245.00†	- 1.00	3.50
Japan	268.00	297.90	+14.50	..
Japanese Special	125.40	133.40	+ 6.90	..
Money Market	104.18	104.18†	+ 0.07	6.00
North American	161.90	172.10	- 3.20	..
Smaller Cos	166.30	176.10	- 0.30	0.80
Smlr Cos Div	77.90	82.67	+ 0.32	4.20
Tomorrows Co Eq	1404.00	1424.00	+11.00	0.10
Uk Equity Growth	710.50	753.70		1.68
Uk Index Inv	466.30	497.60	+ 1.50	2.40
Uk Recovery Tst	131.00	140.80†	+ 1.20	1.30
Global Income	274.50	292.00	+ 0.80	2.70

EAGLE STAR INTERNATIONAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 606 9181

Eagle Star Gbl Cos	17.85	18.75	+ 0.39	
European	362.10	385.10	+ 0.80	0.27
Investment Opps	137.00	145.60	+ 0.30	0.39
Global Priv	46.98	49.86†	- 0.55	0.33
UK Growth	182.60	194.10	+ 0.30	1.00
Growth & Inc #	89.260	73.540	+ 0.20	2.10
Int Pfd	56.54	59.98	+ 2.15	..
Japan Spec Sits	143.30	151.70	+ 4.30	..
Japan	398.20	276.60	- 0.90	0.28
Managed Int	485.20	515.30†	- 1.00	0.68
Mrgtbuilder Plus	67.74	66.36	+ 0.49	0.29
Recovery	78.140	83.080†	+ 0.20	1.64
South E Asia	154.30	164.30	+ 2.90	1.27
Special Sits	1842.00	1108.00	- 1.00	1.02
Specialist Fnds				
Cash Account Units	124.67	124.67	+ 0.11	6.90

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	189.00	190.70†	+ 2.70	1.44
Fleming Pri Inc #	117.65	119.60†	+ 0.10	5.14
Cap Plate	214.50	216.00	- 0.70	0.23
General Opps	191.10	192.30	+ 1.50	2.81
Growth Inc	54.82	55.47	+ 0.04	0.99
Private Portfolio	650.20	661.80†	+16.10	0.95

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Dlg 01277 690 355 Admin/Fd 01277 690 350

Euro Smlr Cos	209.50	242.70	- 0.70	
High Income	74.30	76.45†	+ 0.05	6.51
UK Smlr Cos	57.42	60.42	+ 0.15	1.72
US Smaller Cos	585.50	629.40	-10.20	..

FRANLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Brd 01771 3500 6500 Dealing: 0345 725511

American Growth	121.70	129.00†	- 2.50	..
-do- Accum	121.70	129.00†	- 2.50	..
Amer Smlr Cos	865.70	919.10	-19.00	..
-do- Accum	864.40	939.80	-19.40	..
Capital Tst	479.90	510.10†	+ 1.80	1.25
Capital Inc	716.10	761.80†	+ 2.50	1.25
Cont Smlr Cos	88.63	94.57	+ 1.38	..
-do- Accum	95.10	101.40	+ 1.41	..
Convertible	164.80	175.30	- 0.40	5.63
-do- Accum	383.10	407.60	..	5.63
Emerging Markets	82.76	88.52	+ 0.52	0.07
-do- Accum	82.80	87.69	+ 0.54	0.07
European	230.60	254.10	+ 2.90	..
-do- Accum	254.70	270.10	+ 3.00	..
Extra Income	550.20	585.30	+ 2.30	3.99
Far Eastern	916.50	975.00	+ 4.60	3.99
Financial	301.30	320.50	+ 3.80	..
-do- Accum	322.70	343.30	+ 5.00	0.94
Gilt Trust	64.13	66.12†	+ 0.19	6.89
-do- Accum	108.50	111.90†	+ 0.40	6.89
Health Fund Inc	300.60	319.80	+ 5.90	..
-do- Accum	300.60	319.80	+ 5.90	..
Income & Growth	319.80	340.20	+ 0.70	3.77
-do- Accum	533.50	567.60	+ 1.30	3.77
Intl Growth	338.70	372.70	+ 2.10	..
-do- Accum	338.10	359.90	+ 2.10	..
Japan & Gen	116.30	123.30†	+ 4.40	..
-do- Accum	117.50	124.50†	+ 4.49	..
Monthly Inc #	278.30	296.10†	+ 0.20	3.98
-do- Accum #	294.30	313.00†	+ 0.20	3.98
Managed Port Inc	149.70	157.60†	+ 0.50	1.14
-do- Accum	166.70	175.50†	+ 0.50	1.14
Orderly Income #	73.27	78.25	- 0.05	4.81
-do- Accum #	73.27	78.25	- 0.05	4.81
Recovery	342.00

هذا من الأصل



ON GUARD 59

Will the PIA act over charges on annuity sales?

WEEKEND MONEY

EASTER URGE 52

Now is the time to spring into financial action



Lizanne Rose says disreputable selling techniques mask the benefits of competition

Sales methods of gas suppliers fuel controversy

As competition in the gas industry grows, switching from British Gas to a rival supplier could save you up to 20 per cent on your gas bill. If you have not already had a salesman calling at your home to persuade you to switch, you soon will. However, since the industry was opened up to competition two years ago, consumer watchdogs have been deluged with complaints over standards of service and the selling techniques used by some of the new companies.

Among the underhand tactics employed by door-to-door salesmen are preposterous tales of how British Gas has gone out of business, been handed back to China and even run out of gas pipes. The Gas Consumers Council (GCC) has evidence of elderly and vulnerable people being duped into switching suppliers after being spun a yarn on their front doorstep.

There have been complaints of double billing, refusing to quote prices, misleading or inaccurate quotations, heavy cancellation charges and disputed fees for work carried out. Some of the high-pressure sales tactics are employed by agents working on behalf of the suppliers who have little or no experience in the field.

So far, three million out of a total of 19 million private customers have switched to a new gas provider. Because of the numbers involved, competition has been rolled out gradually by regions. The latest stage began a fortnight ago in Cheshire and South Yorkshire. West Midlands and Wales follow this month and the rest of the country, including London, on May 23.

Direct selling of gas has had a formidable success rate. More than 80 per cent of people contacted face-to-face at their homes have agreed to switch to a new supplier. According to a recent MORI poll, however, while the message that switching supplier would lead to savings was easy to get across, consumer response was also affected by worries that a switch would necessitate a new meter or new pipes. In fact, all it involves is telling British Gas, paying the final bill and then the new supplier when necessary. BG Transco will continue to provide the emergency service for reported gas escapes.

Before a provider is allowed to sell gas to domestic customers it must be licensed. Each company has to pass checks on its financial health and show that it has adequate gas to meet the potential needs of customers. Harder to control are the less scrupulous selling tactics.

Sue Slipman, GCC director, is alarmed by some doorstep selling. She said: "The most worrying reports are of the harassment and intimidation of the elderly and vulnerable, such as those with learning difficulties."

The Office of Gas Supply (Ofgas), the industry regulator, is trying to clamp down on misselling and there is now a strict code of practice. Clare Spottiswoode — who, as Director-General of Gas Supply, runs Ofgas — has pledged to crack down on salesmen prone to exaggerating the benefits of changing company. She said: "Our research shows that most people welcome doorstep selling. However, sales agents who mislead are being swiftly identified and dealt with."

Contracts sold on the doorstep do have a cooling-off period. If you send for information about a gas company using a coupon from a newspaper or sign an information request from a doorstep salesman, make sure you are only asking for information and have not signed a contract, and keep a record of the company's name. Customers can also complain directly to Ofgas or the Gas Consumers Council. To choose which gas company provides the best deal for your individual needs, you should contact the suppliers directly. Our table below shows the current licensed gas companies available and the cost of gas per kWh.

The GCC is advising customers to make a like-for-like comparison and to shop around. British Gas, which is urging the same approach, does admit that some providers' tariffs are on average up to 7 per cent lower. But it also says that the cheapest price does not necessarily offer the best value.

While Ofgas can provide further information and advice, it cannot recommend which gas company to choose. For factsheets on domestic gas competition and suppliers, or to register a complaint of misselling, call 0800-887 777. The Gas Consumers Council is on 0645-060 708.

The annual cost is based on an average gas user of 20,964 kWh of gas per year paying each month or quarter after receiving their bill and includes standing charges and 5 per cent VAT. March 1998 tariffs.

Gas Supplier	Standard Credit Costs			
	Price per kWh (pence)	Standing Charge (£)	Annual Cost (£)	Saving Over British Gas (%)
Amerada Standard Saver	1.200	35.59	301.52	17
Beacon Gas Beaconomy	1.300	26.00	313.46	13
British Fuels[1]	1.340	none	294.97	19
British Gas Standard[2]	1.413	48.87	362.35	
Calortex Saver	1.257	37.50	316.07	13
Eastern Natural Gas	1.185	31.02	293.42	19
London Total Energy	1.250	35.04	311.95	14
Midlands Gas	1.180	32.85	294.24	19
Northern Electric Quarterly	1.180	30.66	291.94	19
Norweb Plan C	1.233	31.44	304.42	16
Scottish Power Standard Package	1.250	37.41	314.44	13
Southern Electric Gas Quarterly Saver	1.198	41.58	307.37	15
Sterling Gas	1.200	25.00	290.40	20
SWALEC Gas	1.189	30.33	293.57	19
SWEB Gas Quarterly	1.200	35.59	301.52	17
York Gas Quarterly standard credit	1.175	35.70	296.13	18
Yorkshire Electricity Standard[3]	1.190	35.99	299.74	17

NOTES

[1] Prices tiered according to usage band

[2] You get a prompt-payment discount of £7.87 a quarter if you pay your bills within 10 days of the billing date

[3] There are three standard credit packages-Standard Package, Payment Card and Budget Scheme. All have the same tariffs and standing charges.

Direct Debit payment will usually be cheaper but is sometimes only available with certain tariffs or payment plans. Costs for gas users with prepayment tariffs are also structured differently.

Source: Which?

HOW much cheaper does it work out to use an alternative supplier to British Gas? To calculate how much cheaper it would be for you to switch, look at your gas bills for the past four quarters and add the total kWh figures to give your annual gas use. Then multiply your annual gas usage in kWh by the "price per kWh" listed in our Gas Suppliers Cost Comparison table and divide it by 100 to get the price in pounds. Lastly add this to the standing charge (if there is one) and then add 5 per cent VAT to give each company's total annual charge.

Northern Electric shock for customers



PETER NICHOLLS

Switched: Carolyn Scrivener with son Scott, 4, and daughter Chloe, 14

A salesman from Northern Electric called on Carolyn Scrivener, of Wallington, Surrey, a month ago. "I assumed he was from British Gas: he didn't mention at any time that he was representing another company." The salesman was with Mrs Scrivener for a matter of minutes. "He asked to read my meter, which of course I let him. Afterwards, he talked about British Gas and said that I had to re-sign my contract, to confirm that I wished to stay with them. I never presumed, and he never said, that he planned to switch me to another supplier."

Mrs Scrivener realised her mistake only last week and re-examined the contract. Not only had the salesman signed her up for gas with Northern Electric, but for electricity as well. "I contacted the Gas Consumers Council who were very helpful in explaining what action I should take. I sent back my contract. Even if their gas is cheaper, I didn't like the way they came across."

A spokesman for Northern Electric said: "We take reports of agents pressurising customers very seriously. Mrs Scrivener's contract will be terminated immediately and we will contact her very soon."

HOW TO ESTIMATE YOUR ANNUAL USAGE

Type of property	Occupants	Heating only (kWh)	Cooking only (kWh)	Heating & Cooking (kWh)
2-bedroomed flat	2	11,311	1,193	12,505
3-bed terrace (built 1945-65)	3	14,934	1,363	16,297
3-bed terrace (built 1919-1945)	4	20,649	1,534	22,183
Semi-detached 3-bed house (built 1945-1965)	4	22,346	1,534	23,880
Detached 3-bed house (1945-1965)	5	31,119	1,704	32,823

*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, income taken, for period 17/11/86 to 1/3/98 (equivalent 5 year figure +85.75%, 1/3/93 to 1/3/98). #Source: Micropal, all figures offer to bid, gross income reinvested, for periods ending 1/3/98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and the income from them is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise. The Equity Income Trust has been available as a PEP since May 1993. Full written terms and conditions are available on request. For your security, all calls are recorded. Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England, no 2170242, is a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. Registered Office 1 Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business, and by IMRO.

Royal & SunAlliance

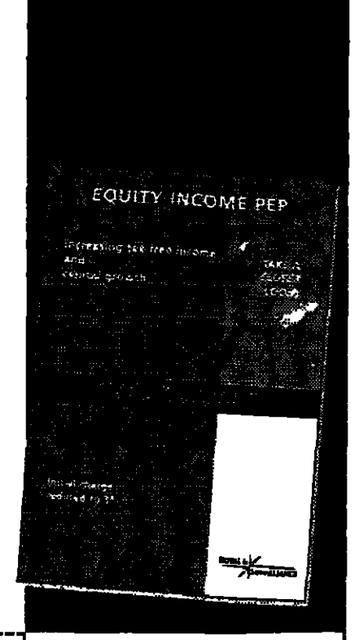
Best Investment Manager 1997 STANDARD & POOR'S AWARDS

Outstanding performance...

- Increased level of income every year since launch

AND

- Capital growth of +211%*



Equity Income PEP

Superb track record#...

Years:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Quartile:	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st

For a special pack with full details, please contact your Financial Adviser, return the coupon below, or telephone 0645 100555 (weekdays 8am to 8pm, weekends 9am to 6pm)

To: Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management (EIT), FREEPOST SCE5807, Reading Berkshire RG10 9ZY. Please send me details of the Equity Income PEP.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Date of Birth _____

T 11/4

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

The tax regime of PEPs and ISAs may change, and the value of the tax benefits will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. The value to you of the benefits will depend on your own circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. **Source: Micropal UK Fixed Interest sector to 28.2.98. †Source: Office for National Statistics. *As at 30.3.98 the dealing spread for Corporate Bond was 0.34%, Managed Income 0.58%, Blue Chip 0.52% and Tracker 0.66%. Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority).

Choosing your last ever PEP? Trust M&G with the Fundamentals.

- Over 400,000 people deal direct with M&G – making us one of the most popular investment managers.



NO INITIAL CHARGE*

NO WITHDRAWAL FEE AFTER 5 YEARS

Fundamentals

For full details and application forms call

0345 321 037

1998/99 PEPs will be unaffected by the arrival of ISAs – and the sooner you invest, the sooner your money can start working for you, tax free. M&G's Fundamentals range of PEPs makes the choice easy.

NEED A HIGH INCOME NOW?

For income at a rate currently higher than the average building society account,† discover *The M&G Corporate Bond PEP Fund*, currently in the top 25% of funds in its sector (since launch in April 1994).**

NEED A RISING INCOME?

Our *Managed Income PEP Fund* gives an attractive level of income and the prospect of your returns increasing over time, investing in a range of M&G's funds.

NEED LONG TERM RETURNS?

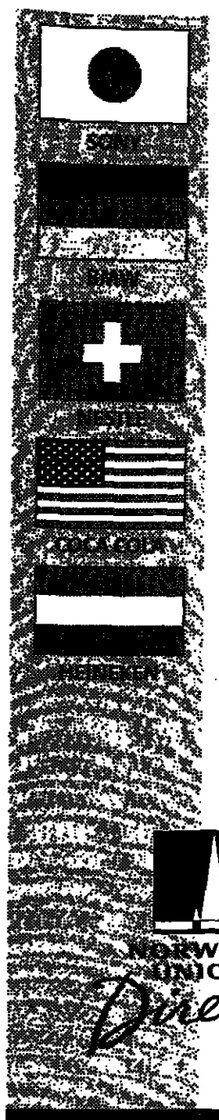
The M&G Blue Chip PEP Fund invests in the UK's largest companies and is an excellent way to tap into the current strength of the UK economy.

NEED TO HARNESS STOCKMARKET GROWTH?

The new M&G Index Tracker PEP Fund tracks the performance of 900 or so publicly-quoted companies in the FTSE® All-Share Index.

Don't let time slip away. Ask for details of this essential range today, and take full advantage of your final PEP allowance.

M&G



Act now – only one PEP year left

If all the world's **top** companies were British, you wouldn't need our **Global Tracking PEP.**

Not all the best companies are British, which is why not all of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP is invested in British companies. Unlike most other tracking PEPs, we invest in over 2,500 companies worldwide, to give excellent potential for growth.

- Growth since launch in July 1996 of 34.8%* TAX-FREE, with a historic return of 108%** over 5 years.
- 75% of your investment tracks UK companies and 25% tracks companies in 27 other stock markets worldwide.
- No initial charges and no charge for transfer from other PEPs.
- Make the most of the last PEP year, apply now.

For a free information pack call

0800 056 2450

quoting reference number 1T166.

Lines open weekdays 8am-8pm, weekends 10am-4pm.

http://www.norwich-union.co.uk

NORWICH UNION Direct

INSURANCE INVESTMENTS HEALTHCARE PENSIONS

Past performance is no guide to the future; unit prices can go down as well as up; the performance of PEPs invested in equity based assets will reduce from 1999 due to the loss of a reclaimable tax credit. You should consider PEPs a medium to long term investment. Funds invested abroad may alter with exchange rate fluctuations. Information/advice will only relate to Norwich Union products. We may telephone you to confirm receipt of your information pack. *Buy to sell performance of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP, gross income reinvested 1/7/96 to 31/1/98. **Although the Norwich Global Tracking PEP has only been available since July 1996, if you had invested £1,000 on 1/1/93 in the underlying funds of the Norwich Global Tracking PEP (in the same proportions as the PEP) your investment would have been worth £2,080 (a growth of 108%) on 31/1/98, assuming the income tax benefits of a PEP also applied. In certain circumstances information may be passed to other insurance companies or professional experts acting on our behalf. Details that you provide may be used by Norwich Union group companies, your insurance intermediary or other relevant organisations for marketing purposes, such as market research and contacting you regarding your insurance or investment needs. If you wish to opt out of the Norwich Union group marketing, please write to Norwich Union, FREEPOST, Mailing Exclusion Team, PO Box 903, Sheffield S11 8LE. For your protection all telephone calls will be recorded. Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.

I would like more information on the Norwich Global Tracking PEP.

Please complete this coupon in BLOCK CAPITALS and return it to: Norwich Union Portfolio Services Limited, FREEPOST ANG 4247, Norwich NR1 3BR.

Title _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____

Telephone Number (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

ref: 1T167

Tomorrow the world

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A new era of global super-mergers was opened up this week, when America's Citicorp agreed an £85 billion merger with Travelers, the insurance group that owns the Salomon investment bank. Or so goes the hype.

Surely, any new era must have started less inspiringly with the grander £100 billion merger agreed between Glaxo-Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham. Only, as we know, that foundered on the traditional merger issue: who is to get the jobs? That is no problem in a hostile takeover, as Wellcome seniors found.

The short-term benefit of scrapping loads of seemingly overlapping jobs is measurable. It needed to be, for instance, to pay Wellcome shareholders their takeover premium, even if that might have been higher but for the biggest shareholder's yen to be gone. Any long-term loss, for instance in drugs that are never invented, comes later if at all.

There comes a point, however, when a hostile takeover becomes so expensive that the buyer's shareholders cannot afford to take the risk. The bigger the target company, the more successful it is and the more it depends on mobile people rather than owned assets or rights, the riskier it becomes to pay a huge takeover premium upfront. That is why Travelers, Glaxo and the big Swiss banks opted for "mergers of equals" effected by a share swap.

So many mergers end in tears, however, that shareholders need to be clear about the benefits in advance. In the case of Glaxo/SmithKline, they were clear. The merged company aimed to save £1.5 billion a year in overlapping costs. In theory that might add up to £25 billion to the equity value, before the heavy one-off costs of scrapping people's jobs. No wonder many investors are incensed by the failure of boards that wallow in pay to do the deal and prove their worth. So far, Glaxo has understandably been reluctant to make a hostile bid for its slightly less huge rival.

The Travelers/Citicorp combine would have little business overlap, removing easy gains in shareholder value as well as the corresponding conflict and turmoil. On that front at least, the chances of the 50-50 deal going ahead look better. The supposed benefits lie in cross-selling, all-in capacity across the continents and sheer size. They proved just as alluring. Shares in both companies rose strongly, as did Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham.

Investors clearly have faith in the benefits of global mega-mergers. They are almost compelled to do so. The prospect of vast value-creating deals is needed to justify ever-rising share ratings on both sides of the Atlantic.

Banking and pharmaceuticals have been lead sectors of the share boom. In pharmceuticals, pressure on healthcare costs makes it imperative to spread overheads and develop a continuous pipeline of new, if sometimes modest, drugs. In banking, lenders to multinational groups claim they need global capacity, though that is only clear in investment banking.

In many other sectors, however, the arguments for world companies are, according to taste, equally compelling or spurious. Overhead costs of new products dictate this in the motor industry. The race to ape Coca-Cola suggests that branded consumer goods are strong candidates, not least because of global marketing at sporting events such as the Olympics or motor grands prix. Communications services increasingly know no borders other than language.

On a rough count, some two thirds of the companies in the FTSE 100 share index of top corporates are either potential building blocks for a wordwide business or are the product of past globalisation. Retailing, building materials and infrastructure utilities seem the main exceptions.

That test also shows that this is no guaranteed route to good returns — unless your company is taken over for cash. Many leviathans, for instance in oil, banking or motors, have proved too slow to change and have endured long periods of stagnation and low returns. But the board usually does well.

Gavin Lumsden on society moves to keep carpetbaggers at bay

Doors open — for some

Britannia and Yorkshire building societies re-opened their doors to small savers this week but made it clear they do not want money from carpetbaggers.

Both societies have reduced opening balances on their instant access accounts from £2,000 to £100 in an attempt to return to business as usual after they were forced to raise minimum investment levels last year to fend off the army of speculators who besieged their offices in search of the next demutualisation.

Although conversion speculation has cooled down from last year's feverish levels, neither society is relaxing its guard against carpetbaggers. New members will be required to give any windfall to charity if their society converts within five years of an account being opened. Both have set up charitable foundations for the money in the "unlikely" event of a conversion.

New members will still have a right to vote and have their say in the societies' affairs and be entitled to any payout after the five years.

David Anderson, chief executive of the Yorkshire said: "We have been searching for a way to allow everyone access to our competitive interest rates whilst avoiding the disruption which has resulted from speculative account opening in the past."

The move does not affect the existing 2.8 million members of Britannia and Yorkshire. Both societies are winding down deposit accounts which do not confer society membership to savers, having introduced them last year as another measure to deter speculators. However, under the 1997 Building Societies Act such accounts will become illegal later this year.



The five-year qualifying period for new members is an improvement on Nationwide's stance. Since October it has required new members to relinquish windfalls for all time.

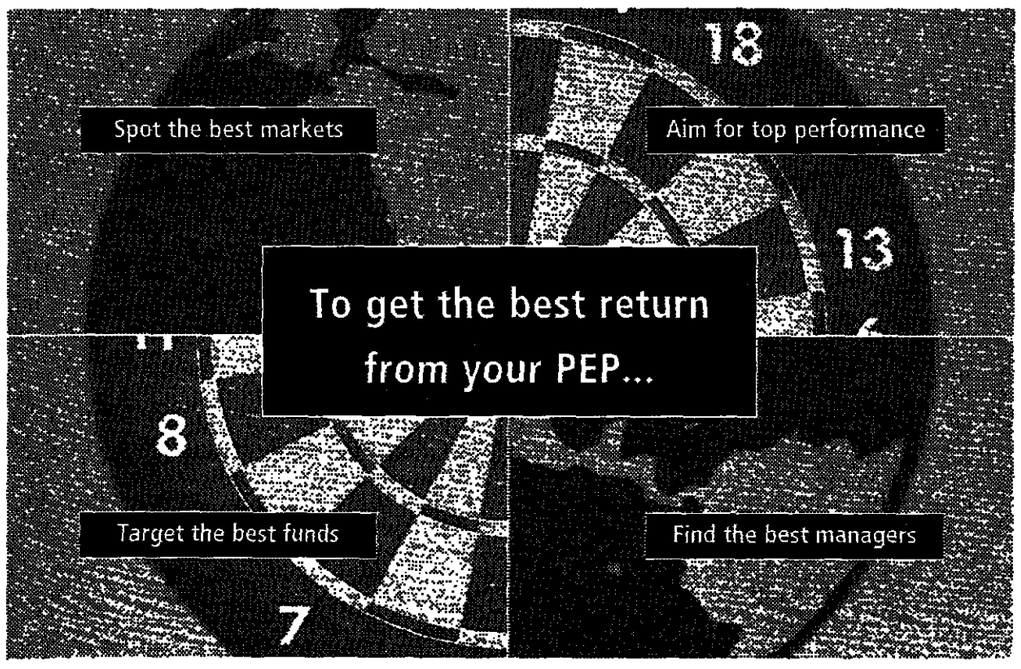
Mr Anderson said: "We took the view that we did not want two permanent classes of membership. We considered introducing bonuses for long-term savers but we thought that would discourage new savers." However, the Bradford & Bingley Building Society was critical of any attempt to ring-fence new investors.

Christopher Rodrigues, the society's chief executive, said: "What business are we in? Why on earth should we want to deter people from putting their money with us?

"People can open up an account with us for any reason they like. We are not going to convert."

To underline its renewed focus on smaller savers, Yorkshire has launched a three-year regular savings account starting at £10 per month. This pays gross annual interest of 7.8 per cent (6.24 per cent net) if 12 monthly deposits are made. However, if a payment is missed or the money is withdrawn the gross rate halves to 3.9 per cent. Britannia, meanwhile, is re-opening its regular savings account, which pays 7.75 per cent gross, for monthly payments from £20 to £500.

Both societies are taking action on Tessas and postal accounts as well. Yorkshire has reduced minimum investment levels on its 7.9 per cent Tessa Plus from £2,000 to £100, compared with the £250 needed for Britannia's Flexi Tessa. Opening balances on Yorkshire postal accounts have been brought down from £3,000 to £2,000, and for the Britannia from £5,000 to £1,000.



...leave it to Edinburgh Fund Managers.

Choosing the right PEP used to be a real headache. Now you can leave it to the experts – simply select the Edinburgh Managed Growth Portfolio PEP.

The Managed Growth Portfolio PEP saves you the worry of deciding which investment company you will trust with your valuable PEP allowance.

We assess which markets have the potential to give the best return and select the best unit trusts from the UK's most successful fund management companies. You benefit from a fund of funds portfolio giving you a spread of risk which is hard to match.

Low charges

The fund is managed by our Private Clients team, so that you benefit from private client management – but at low unit trust charges.

So instead of worrying about your PEP, relax and leave it to Edinburgh Fund Managers.

Budget Update

PEP tax benefits retained for all investments made before April 1999! To find out more ask your Financial Adviser, or call our Helpline.

Call 0800 838 893 free

www.edfd.com

Edinburgh FUND MANAGERS

Edinburgh Fund Managers plc, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD.

Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority. The value of units and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may get back less than they originally invested. The value of any tax relief will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor. Following the introduction of the new Individual Savings Account (ISA) on 5 April 1999 no further subscriptions to PEPs may be made. Existing PEP holders will continue to enjoy tax benefits under the current rules, outside the ISA. The value of PEP holdings will not affect the amount that can be subscribed to the ISA. MGP/T/03

THE DEATH TAX

How To Avoid It

Inheritance Tax is charged at a flat rate of 40%. If all your assets are worth £500,000 the tax bill could be £110,800.
Is that too much to pay?

Fortunately, there are many ways to reduce or avoid this liability. If you want to know more:

TALK TO TOWRY LAW TODAY
'tomorrow' may be too late
Phone 0345 88 99 33
(local rate calls)

or complete the coupon below to put us in touch.

Levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation are subject to change; any tax reliefs referred to are those currently applying and their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor.

TOWRY LAW FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY
Towry Law House, 57 High Street, Windsor, SL4 1LX

TOWRY LAW FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD
FREEPOST, SLOUGH, SL1 3ZY.
Fax: 01753 558220. E-mail: info@towrylaw.com

The Death Tax - How to Avoid it. Please contact me to arrange a free consultation, without obligation.

TOWRY LAW GROUP
40 YEARS 1958 - 98

Name *Address*

Postcode

Age: Self *Spouse:* *Telephone*

T/1694/3

WITH-PROFITS BOND

A worry-free investment offering the best of both worlds.

Security and Potential Capital Growth

If that sounds like your dream come true, then The Equitable With-Profits Bond is a winning combination for your investments.

With £500 you can invest in a managed fund of assets, which smooths the short-term fluctuations in value over the period of your investment.

So, you can strike a balance between keeping your savings safe in a building society, but possibly eroded by inflation, and the potentially lucrative but more risky option of investment in equities.

And, as part of your medium to long-term investment plans, The Equitable With-Profits Bond can play an important and profitable part.

Of course, the final value of the investment is not guaranteed.

You also have the reassurance and peace of mind which comes from dealing with The Equitable Life, the world's oldest mutual life office.

If you would like more information on achieving the best of both worlds with The Equitable With-Profits Bond, call (0990) 38 48 58, or return the coupon below for details by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome information on The Equitable With-Profits Bond ☐ TMBC8E

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

Tel: (Office) _____ Postcode _____

Tel: (Home) _____

Date of Birth _____

We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer us not to pass on further information from us, please tick this box ☐

Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

Hit if you save, hit if you don't



COMMENT

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Personal Finance Deputy Editor

While the Government wrestles with the task of persuading the low paid to save for their old age, the *middle classes* have already taken the message to heart. Many have stayed in work longer than they would have liked in order to build up as large a pension fund as possible.

From this pot of money they are obliged to buy an annuity that will provide an income for life. Yet annuity rates have fallen so fast that they might have been better off retiring *earlier and taking* a higher rate on a smaller pot of money. There are alternatives — delaying buying an annuity, and opting for income drawdown which involves taking an income from the fund and buying an annuity later. But this involves complex assumptions about future economic trends. In addition, the commission charged on some of the income drawdown contracts is so high that the Personal Investment Authority, the consumer watchdog, has begun an investigation.

Meanwhile, as we report on page 59, careful savers *who make additional* voluntary contributions to their pensions via free-standing contracts with insurance companies may be losing chunks of their retirement money because they are paying hefty fees. The Government is currently considering submissions from the financial services industry on the future of pensions and welfare provision.

Among the suggestions is a simple index-tracking investment which is Kitemarked for quality, low cost, and sold without advice. The scandal of the 1980s, when salesmen persuaded people in generous employers' pension schemes to contract out into inferior personal pensions, means that advice is now an unfashionable concept.

Certainly, if you have chosen to buy an index-tracking pension, the only consideration is cost. Until, that is, you come to retire. *Will the low-cost providers* be obliged to offer advice on when to switch out of an equity-based fund and into something less volatile as you contemplate retirement? Who will advise of the need to shop around for the best annuity rate? Who will you turn to when deciding whether to delay buying *an annuity until rates* improve?

Advice from traditional insurance companies has not always been in the customers' best interest. But to throw out the concept of advice altogether because it has been abused in the past by salesmen will cost pensioners dear in the long-run.

BARRY BATCHELOR



Drivers stuck on flooded roads will be covered for damage to their cars if they have comprehensive insurance

Insurers help to mop up

Insurers' emergency helplines were buzzing yesterday after two days of torrential rain left villages and roads *in the Midlands under feet of water.*

By yesterday afternoon insurance companies were reporting thousands of claims from anxious householders and car owners; an unprecedented level of demand for a Bank Holiday weekend.

Flood cover has been a standard part of *building and contents insurance since* 1953 when 280 people lost their lives in the Great Flood along the East Coast of England. Unfortunately, today many people feel compelled to economise and insure their home only as part of their agreement with their mortgage lender. *Many will rue this decision as they* survey their damaged furniture this weekend, while those motorists who were stranded when roads flooded will be covered for damage only if they had taken out comprehensive insurance.

With more rain on the way, the advice of insurers for households not yet affected is to take pre-emptive action: use sandbags if you have them and move furniture upstairs if you can.

If you are already flooded, turn off the electricity at the mains. Then contact your *insurer. The helpline number will be on* the policy documents. Vic Rance, of the Association of British Insurers, said: "Let your insurer or broker know as quickly as possible. They can log your claim and offer you advice until the loss adjuster, who will assess the damage, arrives. *Don't throw anything away.* The loss adjuster will want to see how valuable it is and, besides, it might be possible to repair the damage, particularly for carpets. Do not rush drying things either. Use a low heat to avoid further damage. *Serious water damage can take a long* time to repair. You might not be able to redecorate for up to six months, for instance."

The past three years have seen a marked improvement in the service offered by insurers. It is rare nowadays *for policyholders to have to arrange and* pay for the lengthy clean-up operation. Hambros Legal Services, which handles claims for many building and contents insurers including Norwich Union and Barclays, has told its loss adjusters to contact all policyholders in the flood areas.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

2% PEP DISCOUNT

Pèp

Now the accent is on European Growth

THE MERCURY EUROPEAN GROWTH PEP

With our special PEP discount of 2%, and strengthening European stockmarkets, there's never been a better time to invest in Europe. Take advantage of this excellent growth potential by investing in the Mercury European Growth Fund. Had you been able to invest £6,000 in a PEP at the Fund's launch in December 1983, it would now be worth £66,640 tax-free – an average annual return of 18.3%.*

Save up to £120

For more information and details of a 2% PEP discount worth up to £120, call us now, return the coupon or contact your financial adviser.

Now that the Chancellor has confirmed the continuing tax efficiency of PEPs, it is even more important to consider making the most of your *full PEP* allowance. **Act now to get your 2% PEP discount.**

CALL NOW 0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Asset Management Ltd, FREEPOST KE4930, London EC4B 3DO. Please send me details of the Mercury European Growth PEP. PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS.

Surname

First name (full name) Title

Address

Postcode

Ref:TMED15/98

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT

*Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. Performance figures based on buying to selling prices to 1.4.98 with gross income reinvested. 5 year performance: £15,027, an average annualised return of 20.2%. ■ 2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum PEP investments of £1,000 or more. ■ The value of investments and income from them may fluctuate and are not guaranteed. ■ Changes in the rates of exchange may cause the value of your investment to rise or fall. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ■ The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. ■ The Mercury European Growth Fund is managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management Ltd. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO). ■ This advertisement is based on the Chancellor's Budget statement on 17.3.98. ■ Issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS, http://www.marn.com regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and representing only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products, which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

The Corporate Bond PEP

The low cost high income PEP

INVEST NOW

to make the most of your final year's PEP allowance

	Annual Management Charge	Gross Yield
Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP	**0.5%**	**6.8%**
[illegible]	0.7%	6.6%
[illegible]	0.75%	6.6%
[illegible]	1.25%	6.3%

NO initial charges
NO withdrawal fee
0.5% annual management charge

Visit our web site at www.LandG.com

Find out more now – phone free

0500 11 66 22

8am to 8pm weekdays. 9am to 5pm weekends.

For your protection, calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored

Please quote ref: C7DL14

Source: LGIM 106.04.98). The running yield of the Fixed Interest Trust was 6.8% (a 2% redemption yield) as at 6 April 1998. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in Unit Trusts. Tax assumptions are those currently applicable and are subject to statutory change. The value of tax relief will depend on your individual circumstances. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2702080. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. A member of AUTIF. Investors should be aware that unlike cash in a Deposit Account the capital value of investments in Fixed Interest Trusts is not guaranteed. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available

Legal & General have led the way in providing low cost, high performance PEPs to our customers.

Over the years, our determination to provide outstanding value for money has meant that today Legal & General Investment Management has in excess of £60 billion under management.

A glance at the table shows that we deliver unbeatable value, providing the lowest cost diversified Corporate Bond PEP on the market with annual management charges of only 0.5%, with no initial charges on lump sum investments or withdrawal fees.

So, for a regular, tax-free income on your savings find out more about Britain's best value Income PEP today.

Just complete and return the coupon.

C7DL14

YES I would like more information about the Legal & General Corporate Bond PEP. Post to Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC1067, Cardiff CF1 1YW. If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐ We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here ☐.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) *Forename(s)*

Address

Postcode

Date of birth / /

Tel. No. Home

Tel. No. Work

Legal & General

The Schroder UK Balanced Growth PEP

HIGH GAIN

It's a balancing act

LOW RISK

If you're like most of our investors, you want a good profit from your final PEP, but you don't want to risk everything to achieve it. So how can you achieve strong performance without sacrificing security? Invest in the Schroder UK Balanced Growth PEP.

All equity investments involve a degree of risk, but the UK stockmarket is one of the most stable in the world and Schroders are acknowledged experts at investing in it. The new Schroder UK Balanced Growth PEP aims to strike the perfect balance between risks and rewards.

The PEP invests in three of our most popular funds, each of which is a leading fund in its sector[1]. Had you invested £6,000 in this PEP combination five years ago, your investment would *now be worth over* £14,000[1]. And what's more, you wouldn't have lost any sleep over it.

Call us now or complete and return the coupon opposite to receive your free brochure, and find out how you can achieve the right balance with your last PEP.

0800 002 000

Quoting ref 653

Schroders

TO: SCHRODERS, CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT, 02853 FREEPOST, LON 7109, LONDON EC4B 4PD.
Please send me my free copy of the Schroder UK Balanced Growth PEP brochure, or alternatively contact your usual financial adviser.

Name

Address

Postcode

Date of Birth / /

(1) Micropal offer to bid, gross income reinvested, 29/3/93-30/3/98. £3000 in UK Equity became £6881.42 (10/92 in sector). £3000 in UK Enterprise Fund became £4848.40 (11/114 in sector). £1000 in UK Smaller Companies Fund became £3499.53 (15/48 in sector).

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The value of the current PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. The March 1998 Budget confirmed that PEPs will no longer be available to new investments after April 5th 1999, but that existing PEPs may continue to be held with the same tax advantages as the new Individual Savings Accounts after that date. For investors' security, all telephone calls through Schroder ClientLine are recorded. If you have any doubts whether an investment is suitable for you and wish to obtain personal advice, you should contact an independent intermediary.

Issued by Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIF.

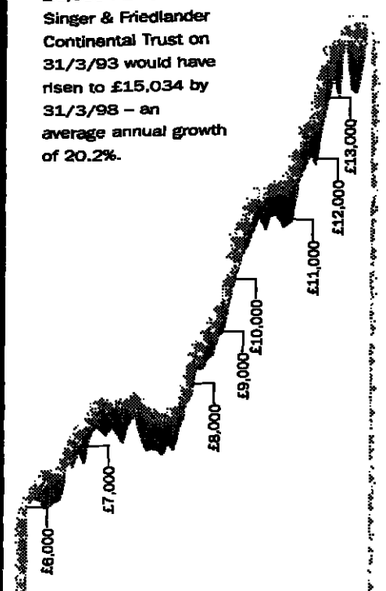
www.schroders.com/ukfrench/funds

Singer & Friedlander

Continental PEP
TAX FREE
PEP BENEFITS PROTECTED BY THE BUDGET

20%* p.a.

*£6,000 PEP'ed into the Singer & Friedlander Continental Trust on 31/3/93 would have risen to £15,034 by 31/3/98 – an average annual growth of 20.2%.



The economic arguments for European investment are compelling:

- Continental economic growth rates are recovering strongly.
- Increased efficiency and privatisations have created major opportunities for shareholders.
- Investors will gain should Sterling fall from its current level.
- We believe EMU will create exciting opportunities for European investment.

The Budget announcement makes PEP investment even more attractive. Contact us today for a PEP application and our free report: "The Case for European Investment in 1998"

Freecall 0800 0685544

1% Discount during the last year of PEP investments

To: Singer & Friedlander Portfolio Management Ltd., FREEPOST LON 2280, London EC2B 2AA.
Fax: 0171 867 8780.
E-mail: information@singers.co.uk.
Please send me full details of your Continental Trust PEP.
I am also interested in consolidating my PEP investments under one manager (please tick) ☐

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms: .....
Initials: .....
Surname: .....
Address: .....
.....
.....
Postcode: ..... DT 11/4

Singer & Friedlander

*All performance source: Micropal, offer to bid, gross income reinvested. The value of units and the income from them may fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. Changes in exchange rates may affect the value of units. Telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Singer & Friedlander Portfolio Management Ltd., 21 New Street, London EC2M 4HR. Regulated by IMRO. If you do not wish to receive information about other Singer & Friedlander products, please tick ☐



Spring into action this Easter

New tax forms are in the post, **Sara Williams** offers advice

Easter — a festival of Christian renewal, but also the beginning of a new tax year. Tax returns have started landing on the doormats of 8.4 million taxpayers and big tax changes are under way for families, savers and investors.

Although the returns do not have to be sent back for several months, the long holiday weekend is an ideal time to start sorting out your papers.

If you want the Inland Revenue to calculate your bill, you need to get the return back by September 30. But it is still best to start early because, as millions of people found last year, you may need extra forms and help to complete the task.

Start by checking that you have received the correct form. Look at page two of the return and run through the first nine questions to see whether you need additional sections. The Inland Revenue's telephone order line, 0645-000 404, is open between 8am and 10pm every day.

Even if you intend to work out your own tax bill, you have until January 31 but you should still check to see if you have the right form. It is all too tempting to leave it until the last moment, and then you may find that time runs out. Some 670,000 taxpayers found out in January that late filing means an automatic £100 fine.

■ **BE PREPARED:** Make sure you collect together the various documents you will need. Your employer will shortly be giving you a P60, showing your total pay for last year, plus a copy of the P11D or P9D form giving details of any fringe benefits or expenses.

Keep any interest statements sent by banks or building societies, dividend vouchers and tax deduction certificates.

People running their own businesses, or letting out property, need to collect receipts, payments and any other details of income and expenses.

■ **CHECK YOUR SAVINGS:** Are you saving the maximum in a tax-exempt special savings account (Tessa) which allows you to have up to £9,000 of savings and pay no tax on the interest? Tessas will be phased out next April 6, when the new individual savings account (Isa) is introduced. But any existing Tessas can continue to the end of their five-year term and this will not affect the amount you can put into Isas.

So if you have not got a Tessa, think about starting one before April 6, but remember you need to be able to leave the capital in to the end of the five-year term, so it is not an option if you think you might need the money sooner.

■ **LAST CHANCE FOR A PEP:** Personal equity plans (Peps) will also disappear next April 6, since you will be able to invest in shares and unit trusts tax-free though Isas. Any holdings in Peps will continue to be free of income tax and capital gains tax and will not reduce the amount you can put into Isas. So, if you want to invest more in shares and unit trusts, maximise the size of your tax-free portfolio by taking out one last Pep during this tax year.

■ **REVIEW YOUR PORTFOLIO:** The Chancellor did away with bed and breakfasting in this year's Budget — stopping you selling shares one day and buying them back the next to make a capital gain which can use up the annual tax-free allowance for capital gains tax. But the tax-free allowance still remains — at £6,800 this year — and it makes sense to realise gains that can use it up.

So at some stage in the coming year, think about any shares or unit trusts which have had a good run and you are willing to sell. If you think the prices have further to go, you could buy the shares back 30 days later without falling foul of the new rules — the risk is that you miss a gain in their value of more than the tax you save. For this year, at least, you can buy the shares back the next day provided it is into a Pep (this is known as "bed and pepping").

A husband and wife each have their own tax-free allowance to use up. And provided the transactions are not linked, one partner could always buy some shares in the company sold by the other.

■ **SMALL BUSINESSES:** People with small and medium-sized businesses can get bigger-than-normal capital allowances on spending on plant and machinery for another year. From July 2 until July 1 next year, the first-year allowance is 40 per cent (apart from expenditure on cars). And for now, you can get the even higher rate of 50 per cent introduced in last year's Budget for spending in the year from July 2, 1997.

Big changes to capital gains tax mean retirement relief is being phased out — most businesses will save more from the new taper relief which reduces the taxable gain the longer you own an asset. But some smaller business owners will do better if they can cash in on retirement relief before it disappears — check with your tax adviser.

☐ *Sara Williams is the author of* The Lloyds Bank Tax Guide, *published by Profile. The 1998-99 edition is now on sale, price £7.99, but Weekend Money readers can obtain it for the special price of £4.99 plus £1 p&p. Send a cheque for £5.99 payable to "Profile Books Ltd" with a return address to Times Offer, Profile Books Ltd, 62 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9LA.*

The European Growth Trust
X204%*
It's PEPable!

With Friends Provident, there's a good reason to go into Europe.

It's well worth finding out about the Friends Provident European Growth Trust.

Anyone going into Europe on 31st March 1993, with a £3,000 investment in the Friends Provident European Growth Trust, would have had an excellent return by 31st March 1998.

£9,123.67 no less.

Not only has the Trust outperformed the average return for all unit trusts over the past five years, it's achieved a top quartile performance over 1, 3, 5 and 10 years.

1% discount on lump sum investments of £5,000 or more between 16 March and 29 May.

Fittingly, the Trust has earned its fair share of plaudits: a five star rating by Micropal, a triple A rating by Standard and Poor's Fund Research Ltd and a 1998 What Pep award.

To achieve its consistent capital growth over the last five years, Friends Provident Fund Managers invested the bulk of the fund in major European players such as Daimler-Benz and Adidas.

Now you have the chance to invest in the Trust and gain the potential for significant tax-free growth via the Friends Provident European Growth PEP. If you want to go into Europe with Friends Provident, get on The Blue Line, call 0800 00 00 80 and discuss this PEP with courteous qualified people.

Remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

Get on The Blue Line
0800 00 00 80

We're open 8 to 8 Weekdays, 10 to 4 Weekends. Call 0800 00 00 80.

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

FRIENDS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LINE LIMITED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT MARKETING GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. THE VALUE OF A UNIT TRUST, AND ANY INCOME FROM IT, IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO UP AND DOWN DEPENDING ON INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE AND BECAUSE OF CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE. *BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EUROPEAN GROWTH UNIT TRUST OVER 5 YEARS TO THE 31st MARCH 1998. ALL FIGURES ON AN OFFER TO BID BASIS WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED. SOURCES: REUTERS HINDSIGHT, MICROPAL. YOUR CALL MAY BE RECORDED FOR YOUR SECURITY. THE GOVERNMENT IS LAUNCHING A NEW TAX-FREE INVESTMENT, THE INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT (ISA) ON 6 APRIL 1999 TO REPLACE PEPS AND TESSAS. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS INTO A PEP FROM THIS DATE BUT EXISTING PLANS WILL CONTINUE TO BE TOTALLY FREE OF TAX. INVESTMENTS FROM 6 APRIL 1999, INCLUDING ONGOING MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS, CAN BE MADE INTO THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT ISA. †AVAILABLE TAX-FREE THROUGH THE EUROPEAN GROWTH PEP UNTIL APRIL 1999

Cashing in your Endowment Policy?
More than money.
Market leading prices and service with a free 48 hour quote.
London/South: 01621 855133 Midlands: 0121 709 2500
South West: 0117 930 3827 North: 0113 239 1941 Scotland: 0141 353 0301
Call today, lines always open. Please quote TT0035
Beale Dobie & Company Limited, Fullbridge Mill, Maldon, Essex CM9 5FN
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
Beale Dobie

Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE:
- Pays no commission to third parties for the introduction of new business.
- Has no shareholders.

OUR PENSION PLAN:
- Lets you retire earlier or later than planned – without penalty.
- Lets you vary your contributions – without penalty.
- Provides full return of fund in the event of death before retirement.

So, if you would like to find out more about how The Equitable Pension Plan is not the same as most others, call us direct on (0990) 38 48 58 or send off the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority
THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self employed ☐
I am employed and not eligible to join a company pension scheme ☐ TMRA8E
NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) _____
ADDRESS _____
Tel. (Office) _____ Postcode _____
Tel: (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____
Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

نقلاً من الأصل

Marianne Curphey and Gavin Lumsden on the CGT changes in the Finance Bill

You can put all your shares in one basket

The Inland Revenue hotly denied this week that it had performed a U-turn over a key part of the Budget changes to capital gains tax.

Last month's Budget replaced the complex system of indexation, which reduced investors' CGT liability in accordance with inflation, with an equally complex taper system which cuts the tax bill the longer investors hold assets before selling them.

In the process, financial advisers claimed the Inland Revenue had altered the way investors could exploit losses from previous years to reduce their liability in the current tax year, which would mean they would have to pay more tax. With the publication this week of the Finance Bill, the Inland Revenue clarified the situation.

Capital gains tax can arise when you sell assets or shares worth more than your annual exemption, which this financial year will be £6,800.

In the past an investor who had made losses of £25,000 in previous years but had made a net gain of £10,000 in the current financial year was able to use his annual allowance (£6,500 last year) to reduce his chargeable gain to £3,500. He could then eliminate this gain entirely by using £3,500 of his losses. This left the investor with no tax to pay and £21,500 of losses to carry forward in future years.

However, financial advisers reckoned the wording of the Revenue's original Budget press release meant that the investor would have to carry forward £10,000 of losses to neutralise all his gains. This left his annual exemption untouched and wasted and meant he could carry forward only £15,000 of losses to exploit in future.

This week the Inland Revenue was adamant that no such change had occurred when it published the Finance Bill on Wednesday.

However, Maurice Parry-Wingfield, tax consultant with Deloitte & Touche, said the details in the Bill demonstrated that the Treasury had performed "a volte-face". He said: "This change of heart is extremely welcome. Investors with brought forward losses will not have to pay more tax on their gains after all. If they had kept to the original plans it would have been extremely difficult for investors with smaller gains, perhaps on demutualisation shares, to work out their tax affairs under the new self-assessment rules. Presumably the Treasury was persuaded that to implement the original plan would have made self-assessment even more difficult to cope with."



Happy Easter: it's good news on capital gains tax for shareholders

Under the Budget changes, gains on shares bought after April 5 1998 will not be reduced by the old system of indexation, but the new tapering relief will apply instead.

A spokeswoman for the Inland Revenue said: "We have not made a U-turn. If you have a gain of £10,000 and a loss of £1,000, we would apply indexation if appropriate on the gain of £9,000. Then we would apply losses from the same tax year followed by losses carried forward from earlier years to bring the gain down to the annual CGT exemption of £6,800. We would then apply the annual allowance, which would mean you had no tax to pay. Any losses remaining could then be carried forward."

Investors were also cheered by an important clarification on the "pooling" of shares. In the past investors who acquired shares in a company through a series of purchases over a number of years were able to treat the pool of shares as a single asset. If they sold some of the shares they did not have to work out which of the shares they were selling. Instead, any potential gain on the sale was calculated against the average purchase price of all the shares.

The new taper — which effectively reduces CGT from 40 per cent to 24 per cent for higher-rate taxpayers between three and 10 years — is incompatible with pooling. Instead the Revenue has introduced a last-in-first-out system (Lifo) which means that you will always be selling your most recent acquisitions first.

For example, if a higher-rate tax payer bought 1,000 shares in a company every year for a decade and then sold 2,000 shares he would not see a reduction in CGT as he would have to sell the shares he bought in the last two years, gains from which would still be taxed at the high rate of 40 per cent. However if he sold 3,000 shares, the third lot of 1,000 shares would begin to benefit from the taper. This had led some accountants to speculate that the Lifo rule meant that a new purchase of shares reset the tax clock on the entire pool, as reported last week in these pages. The clarification demonstrates that is not in fact the case.

However, the changes to the way assets are assessed for CGT places a great onus on individual shareholders to keep detailed records of their transactions.

Mr Parry-Wingfield said, however, that investors should be pleased that the Treasury had "done nothing to stop bed & pepping", ie, selling shares and then buying them back within a personal equity plan to make the most of the CGT allowance.

Nor has the Chancellor made any move to stop "double bed and breakfasting" between spouses, where one half of the couple sells a shareholding via a stockbroker and the other half of the couple buys it back to make the most of the CGT exemptions.

Mr Parry-Wingfield said: "Bed and breakfasting is a soft form of tax avoidance; it is difficult to believe that it was necessary to stop it. The fact that the Finance Bill has not attempted to prevent either bed and pepping or double bed and breakfasting underlines this."

NatWest to test high interest phone accounts

NatWest is poised to break ranks with the high street banks and launch a new high-interest telephone savings account in opposition to newcomers like Scottish Widows Bank, Standard Life and Direct Line.

NatWest is piloting the service among its staff and has recently sent out a mailshot to a selected number of creditworthy customers earning more than £20,000.

The service, which is based in Surrey, will stand separately from its branch operations, and is offering to pay savers rates of up to 7.25 per cent — which is far higher than those currently offered by NatWest's other savings options.

If the pilot is successful, NatWest could be launching the full operation later this year.

The move is the latest attempt by banks to reclaim the lucrative area of deposit-taking from insurance companies and supermarkets which have been making aggressive inroads into their territory.

Halifax began the trend for offering a telephone-only deposit account when it launched Halifax Direct in January. The operation offers considerably better rates than the former building society's branch-based Liquid Gold account. Although savers are restricted to two withdrawals in a year, those with deposits in the direct account earn 7.85 per cent on balances of £40,000 or more and 7.3 per cent for the minimum deposit of £10,000. The Liquid Gold pays up to 4.65 per cent on sums over £25,000.

Britain's banks and building societies are coming under increasing pressure to offer higher interest rates to savers after the influx of new banks. Over the last year, Sainsbury, Tesco, Safeway, Virgin and Standard Life banks have all jumped on the savings bandwagon offering direct services. And, because branch-less banking is cheaper to operate, rates can be higher.

If the launch goes ahead, NatWest's new service could be in direct competition with the supermarkets which offer high rates to small savers. Sainsbury and Tesco pay a flat 6.5 per cent on a minimum deposit of £1. The NatWest direct account would offer the same initial rate with the same minimum requirement. But rates are tiered and go up to 7.25 per cent for sums over £250,000.

Edward Creasey, an independent financial adviser with Clark Conway in Wimbledon, said: "It is a good step for a bank. If you look at the normal high street savings accounts, they are very uncompetitive. Nor are they very customer-friendly. This is a step in the right direction. People still like to stay with their high street banks."

Lloyds offers savers the paltry rate of 3.4 per cent a year for deposits between £500 and £5,000 in its instant access account and only 0.5 per cent for anything under £500. Barclays instant access offers little better with 0.75 per cent for sums over £100 but under £4,999. The top rate of 4.7 per cent is only paid on accounts over £25,000. Midland offers 4.25 per cent up to £5,000 and 6 per cent for deposits over £50,000.

Although NatWest said the new product was not designed to replace any of its other savings options available, the bank's existing savings vehicles offer rates which are just as miserly as its counterparts.

With NatWest First Reserve, savers put up with 2.25 per cent interest for sums under £100 and 3.85 per cent for deposits over £1,000. The Premium Reserve, which requires a minimum deposit of £2,000, offers better value with a rate of 4.35 per cent on balances under £10,000. The top rate of 5.05 per cent is paid only to those saving over £50,000. The Reward Reserve offers higher returns as long as no withdrawals are made. Savers with deposits over £2,000 but under £10,000 earn 6.1 per cent and those with savings over £10,000 earn 6.35 per cent. However, the rates include a 2 per cent no withdrawals bonus. Rates go down to 4.1 per cent and 4.35 per cent if the money is taken out.

The only advantage to putting up with such poor returns is having real instant access to your savings. Those with deposits in the First Reserve have a cash and debit card while savers with the other two options can withdraw money from any branch or benefit from an instant transfer.

None of this will be possible with the Save Direct account. As with many telephone operations, savers must request a withdrawal by post or have the money transferred to a current account. This generally means a delay of three or four working days before the money is available.

As the new NatWest direct service is designed as a completely separate entity, the delays will affect existing NatWest customers in the same way.

SUSAN EMMETT

Guess who's just opened a FIXED RATE savings account?

LIMITED OFFER

Up to 8·0%* gross p.a. (net 6.4% p.a.)

*Rate applicable for deposits of £50,000 or more

One year fixed rate.

- Guaranteed fixed interest for 12 months
- Tiered interest rates – the more you save, the more you earn
- Save any amount between £2,500-£100,000

Term Savings Account — Annual

	Gross	Net
£2,500	7.25%	5.8%
£10,000	7.5%	6.0%
£50,000	8.0%	6.4%

Legal & General

trust us to deliver

CALL NOW 0500 11 12 00

Lines are open 8am-8pm Mon-Fri and 9am-5pm weekends. For your protection, and to enable us to deal with any queries that may arise, calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored. www.LandG.com

Please quote ref: CO18 DL01

This is a limited offer. Rates correct at time of going to press. Interest paid net of income tax (currently 20%). Interest can be paid gross to UK residents subject to required certification. Additional deposits and withdrawals are not permitted during the term of the account. On maturity, the account will automatically become a Legal & General Direct Access Account (or similar). Only available to applicants aged 18 or over and ordinarily resident in the UK. Full written terms and conditions for both accounts will be sent with your application form. Minimum investment £2,500. Maximum investment £100,000. Legal & General Bank Limited. Registered in England No. 2405470. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

Cheshire Guernsey Limited is licensed under the Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 1994, as amended, conducts business only in Guernsey and has paid up capital of £5 million. Copies of the latest audited accounts are available on request. Deposits are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1987. Cheshire Building Society is a UK Representative Office of Cheshire Guernsey Limited, but no deposits or withdrawals may be made at its branches. Interest accumulates three working days after cheques are received. *Source MoneyFacts 8.4.98.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST RATES

Paid gross on investments from £25,000 to £1,000,000

PLUS MONTHLY INCOME

The Offshore 60 Account offers exceptional rates of interest and the convenience of operating the account by post. The interest rate for balances of £50,000 and above are the best available* and you only need to give 60 days notice for penalty free access. In addition, a choice of annual or monthly interest means you can benefit from capital growth or a regular income. The account pays interest gross and is open to expatriates, foreign nationals and UK residents. For UK investors this could have valuable cash flow benefits by deferring the tax payable. For further details please complete the coupon or call the number below.

RATES UP TO 8.10% GROSS

OFFSHORE 60 ACCOUNT

Investment	Interest Rates p.a. Monthly Payment	Annual Payment
£250K+	7.81%	8.10%
£100K+	7.77%	8.06%
£50K+	7.72%	8.00%
£25K+	7.49%	7.75%

Please post the coupon to: Cheshire Guernsey Limited, PO Box 229, Canada Court, Upland Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 3NZ

CHESHIRE GUERNSEY LIMITED

For further details call us on 01481 726 885 or visit our Web Site at: www.cheshire-guernsey.co.gg

Please tick appropriate box: To open an account ☐ For further information ☐

To open an account complete this coupon and enclose it with your cheque, payable to Cheshire Guernsey Limited, Account (your name). An application form will be sent by return for completion.

I/We enclose £ _____ (min. £25,000, max. £1million) for investment in the Offshore 60 Account.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Signature(s) _____ 11.4.98 TTI

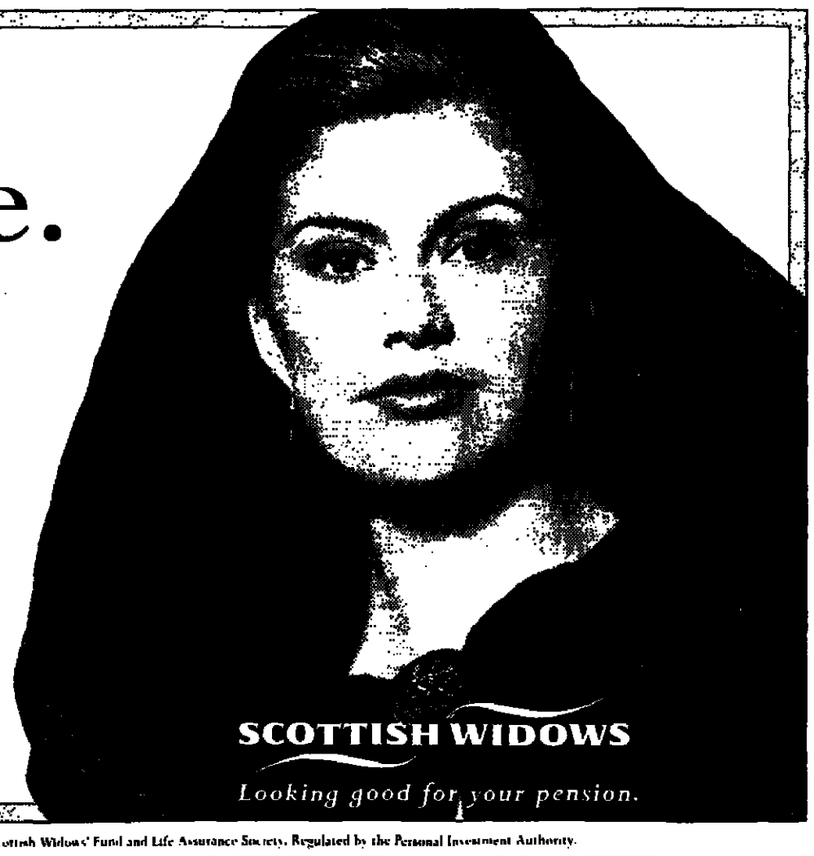
Pensions by phone.

You can pick up the phone and get pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss.

Call, 8am-10pm, 7 days a week quoting ref: 288B924

0345 6789 10

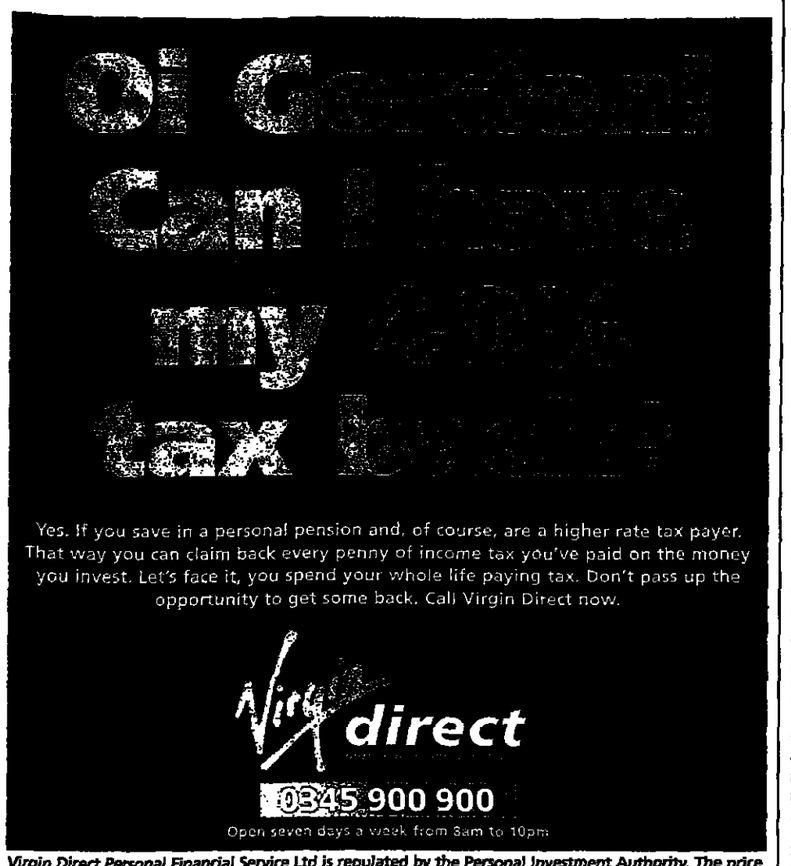
or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.



SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Looking good for your pension.

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.



Yes. If you save in a personal pension and, of course, are a higher rate tax payer. That way you can claim back every penny of income tax you've paid on the money you invest. Let's face it, you spend your whole life paying tax. Don't pass up the opportunity to get some back. Call Virgin Direct now.

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends upon your own personal circumstances. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Clare Stewart asks the experts if we are facing a cool spring

Are markets heading for April showers?

The FTSE 100 has enjoyed a record-breaking run in the first three months of this year, prompting City analysts to recalculate their forecasts for 1998. The index of leading shares closed up 50.3 points at 6,105.5 on Thursday night, the last day of trading before the Easter break, just short of the all-time high of 6,134, which was set on Tuesday. The rise was fuelled in part by the rush of private investors putting money into Peps before the end of the tax year, and stock shortages causing institutional investors to pay higher prices.

The length of the market's bull run has inevitably raised the question of how much longer prices will continue to rise, and the severity of a correction if and when it comes. "We could see a cooling-off and a period of consolidation given that the market has travelled so far," says David McBain, UK equity strategist at NatWest Markets. Company valuations are high and, says Mr McBain, are beginning to look "strained" against the expectations of weaker earnings growth, and factors that have yet to have an impact fully on company balance sheets such as the strength of sterling.

Telecommunications groups were the best-performing sector in the first quarter and rose by almost 40 per cent. Groups such as BT, Cable & Wireless and Orange have seen their share prices climb steadily ahead, indicating investors' belief in the long-term growth prospects offered by the sector. Particularly attractive are the prospects offered by the ever expanding mobile phone market, both in the UK and in Europe. The exposure of groups such as BT to another burgeoning area — Internet services — has also drawn investors, while the cable groups now look more interesting as the benefits of their investment in networks begin to pay off.

Bank shares did phenomenally well last year with some stocks having doubled over the past year. Since the beginning of 1998 there has been some profit-taking in the sector. However, bid speculation, the prospect of the banks returning on billions of pounds of excess capital to shareholders and the expectation that the high street banks will continue to make considerable cost savings are likely to ensure that these stocks remain at a premium.

Of the more recent entrants, Energis, where National Grid has a majority stake, has seen a sharp price rise since news of its joint venture with two of Europe's largest telecom groups, Deutsche Telecom and France Telecom.

The wide-ranging group of companies classified under support services have also outperformed the market since January. The sector spans computer groups to dry cleaners and includes large groups such as Rentokil Initial and Hays. It rose in value by 37.26 per cent in the first quarter.

General insurers have also enjoyed a good run helped by a number of good results from groups reporting in early 1998, with valuations moving up to the higher levels traditionally enjoyed by life assurance groups. There has also been a focus on consolidation in the industry, both in Europe and in the UK, where the highlight was the merger between Commercial Union and General Accident. Overall the sector valuation rose by 29.35 per cent, and although analysts gave warning that profits will start to come under pressure, once again bid speculation is likely to propel the sector forward.

A good results season has also helped the construction sector, where valuations rose overall by 25.6 per cent. The falling price of crude oil hit the exploration and production companies, making it the only sector to drop in value during the first quarter, falling by nearly 9 per cent. Meanwhile,



Healthcare, a sector dependent on a flow of encouraging news about new drugs under development to push shares ahead, managed a poor increase of 2.56 per cent over the first quarter.

The telephone number for the Chase de Vere Pep Guide quoted on page 57 of last week's Weekend Money was incorrect. The number to ring is 0800 526 092

Your Life Assurance *can* be cheaper

Policy Choice Direct

the financial people who let you choose

Our Unique Service is FREE

- Our FREE GUIDE gives you the facts
- Our FREE listings let you compare the rates of the top companies
- We arrange your policy
- We refund your first two months premium

0500 813913

www.policychoice.co.uk

Not all insurance policies and investments are suitable for everyone so if you have any doubt about suitability seek expert advice.

We do not give financial advice.

Policy Choice Direct PLC is an appointed representative of Pier Financial which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.

Buying or selling endowments?

There's a better price waiting for you at SEC.

To pick up a better price for your endowment, just pick up the phone to SEC now. If selling your policy sound like an insult to your old and unlikely one protection outlook. 0800 783 0862

SEC

ENDOWMENT POLICIES WANTED

We Deliver Competitive Prices, Quick Results, and Quality Service

THE INSURANCE POLICY TRADING COMPANY LTD

22 CHURCH STREET : GODALMING : GU7 1EW

☎ 01483 427575 : Fax 01483 418866

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Reasons to think smaller

While the FTSE 100 continues to break records, investors who feel uneasy with the very high prices are being urged to look at the smaller company stocks.

Great things have been predicted for the hitherto neglected smaller companies which trade on the UK stock market. Until the past few months they have shown little growth. Now those City forecasters who peddle the line that the smaller companies are due to take off this year point to profits and dividends in small companies rising more than in larger groups.

Not everyone is so bullish. Frank Manduca, a fund manager for Gartmore's UK Smaller Companies fund, said: "Smaller companies had an horrendous year in 1997 relative to larger groups, but March and April in 1998 have been better so perhaps sentiment has improved." He says that while there is value to be found among smaller groups, there is "a lot of dross" which tends to weigh the index down.

"However, we can provide investors with good returns by selective investment." He suggests support services, property groups, leisure firms and ones involved in construction and building materials.

Andrew Brough, a fund manager of Schroders UK Smaller Companies, is more upbeat about small companies, helped by the signs of increasing bid interest from larger groups, and venture capitalists looking for investment opportunities. "Things are on the turn with recent corporate activity focusing people's attitudes on the value that is there," he said.

Meanwhile, the David Aaron Partnership, independent financial advisers in Milton Keynes, says smaller companies now present a buying opportunity. David Aaron, the senior partner who has produced a report on the sector, said: "We feel that most investors should have at least 30 per cent of their equity portfolios invested in smaller companies at present, spread internationally."

Gartmore smaller companies unit trust is given the highest rating by the report, showing a return over five years of 179 per cent. Other UK unit trusts include Britannia smaller companies, Hill Samuel UK emerging companies, Schroder UK smaller companies and Smith & Williamson smaller securities.

In Europe he rates Barings Europe select and Invesco European smaller companies unit trusts.

Among North American unit trusts, the smaller company ones run by managers Hill Samuel, Foreign & Colonial and Henderson have been selected. Over five years a £1,000 investment in the Hill Samuel US smaller companies fund would have grown to £2,647, against a sector average of £1,972.

As with other sectors, investors in smaller companies should look for the performance over the medium to longer term. While overall, smaller groups will have to work hard to catch up with the leading shares, selective stocks look much more promising. Fund managers say that on a three to five-year basis, they offer prospects of good returns.

A *Guide to the Top 10 Smaller Companies Unit Trusts* is available from David Aaron Partnership, price £1. Write to Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8SD.

C.S.

2% discount for lump sum PEPs until 15 May

Recognise a good investment? Thousands of investors have.



Since we launched the SocGen UK Growth Unit Trust and PEP just four weeks ago, thousands of investors have already entrusted us with their hard-earned savings.

Why? Because they have recognised the quality of SocGen's investment team.

The team has been hand-picked by the country's best known fund manager, Nicola Horlick. It includes some of the City's most successful investment experts, including Peter Seabrook, one of the most experienced UK equity managers and Jane Simmons, a leading UK small companies specialist.

Using their vast experience and proven ability, the team will pursue an active stockpicking approach with the aim of delivering index-beating performance, whatever the market conditions.



Investors have the security of knowing that SocGen Asset Management is backed by Société Générale, a leading international bank with worldwide assets exceeding £238bn.

You can invest in the SocGen UK Growth PEP from just £50 per month or with a lump sum of £1,000 to £6,000. Applications for lump sums on PEP investments received by May 15 qualify for a 2% discount on the initial charge.

For more information on the SocGen UK Growth Unit Trust and PEP, talk to your financial adviser, return the coupon or call us free now on the number below quoting reference T11/4.

0800 88 77 75

To: SocGen Asset Management, SEA5048 FREEPOST, Kingston-Upon-Thames KT2 6BR. Please send me a copy of your brochure relating to the SocGen UK Growth Unit Trust and PEP.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode _____ T11/4

Data Protection Act 1984. Unless you advise us otherwise by ticking the box, your name will be added to a mailing list which may be used to send you details of our other products and services.

SOCIETE GENERALE

ASSET MANAGEMENT

The shape of things to come

Issued by Société Générale Retail Services Limited (regulated by the Personal Investment Authority) trading as SocGen Asset Management. Société Générale Unit Trusts Limited (regulated by IMRO) manages the fund and Société Générale Asset Management UK Limited (regulated by IMRO) manages the PEPs. In addition to the brochure, you may also request a free copy of the Scheme Particulars relating to the SocGen UK Growth Unit Trust. For your own security, any calls may be recorded and randomly monitored. Please note that the price of units may go down as well as up. Due to the initial charge, you may lose money if you withdraw in the early years. PEPs and unit trusts may not be suitable investments for everyone and, if you have any doubts, you should seek independent advice. The value of the current PEP tax reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. You are entitled to a PEP allowance of £6,000 in the current tax year. The Government has proposed that all PEPs held on 5th April 1999 may continue to be held as PEPs after that date, with the same tax advantages of Individual Savings Accounts due to be introduced on 6th April 1999. UKG15

FOR £100 A MONTH YOU COULD BE REAPING TAX-FREE REWARDS FROM THE STOCK MARKET.

FIND OUT HOW.

You probably know already what a tax efficient investment PEPs can be. This is because the returns on both your capital and income are completely tax-free.

But did you realise that by holding Investment Trust shares in a PEP, your money could be working even harder for you?

Over the years, Investment Trusts have proved to be one of the best ways of taking advantage of the growth opportunities offered by the stock market.

The reason for this is that they spread the risk across a wide portfolio of publicly-quoted companies. In addition, charges are kept to a minimum.

So, if you have a regular amount of £100 or more to invest each month, you should send off for our Fact Sheet "Investment Trust PEPS - a plain guide".

It's free and produced by the AITC, the body that speaks for Investment Trust Companies. Simply fill in the coupon or call us on 0171-431 5222.

THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

To: Association of Investment Trust Companies, Horizon West, Canal View Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5XE. *Internet:* http://www.iii.co.uk/aitc

Please send me a free information pack. ☐ I am a private investor ☐ I am an independent adviser *Please tick*

(Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Address _____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

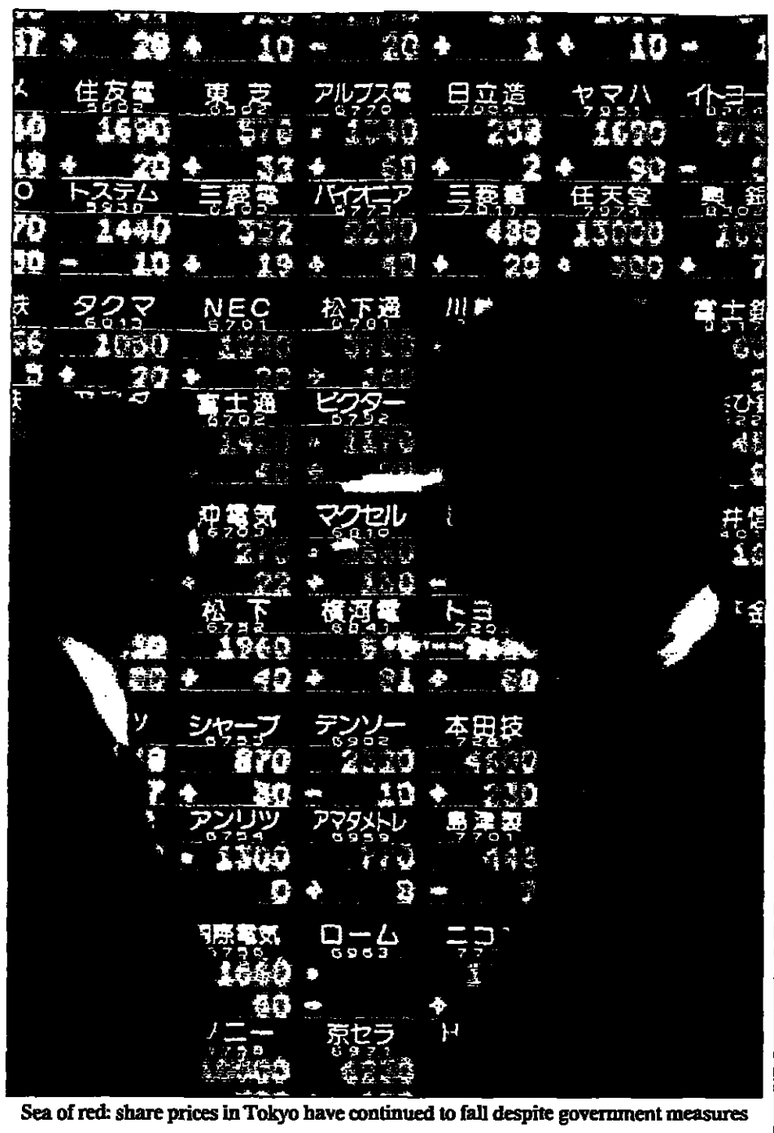
T11/01/ST



Please note that the value of and income from shares may fall and you may not get back the amount you have invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. This advertisement has been issued by AITC Services Ltd which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Few expect Tokyo's economic news to improve just yet, says **Caroline Merrell**

Sickness of Japan is worry for UK investors



Sea of red: share prices in Tokyo have continued to fall despite government measures

The growing economic crisis in Japan took a turn for the worse this week, as the president of Sony Corporation, one of the country's biggest companies, admitted what everyone has known for a long time, that Japan is on the point of a deep recession. Norio Ohga, Sony's president, said: "The Japanese economy is on the verge of collapsing if the economic situation continues to decline. This will no doubt have a damaging effect on the rest of the world."

Any British investors unfortunate to hold unit or investment trusts that have shares in Japanese companies will have seen an almost continuous downward spiral in the value of their holdings for nearly a decade.

Even those that invested three years ago in an average Japanese unit trust would have seen the value of their investments nearly halve. According to Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) figures,' £1,000 put into an average unit trust at the beginning of 1995 would now be worth a little over £550. In contrast, £1,000 invested in a UK index-tracking fund would have doubled in value.

The past few months have been especially painful for those with holdings in Japan, as share prices have been severely affected by the recession besetting the rest of Asia. Some of Japan's biggest export markets are in Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. All these countries have been hit by huge currency devaluations that have left domestic consumers unable to afford Japanese goods. The comparative strength of the yen has made goods even more expensive for the cash-strapped consumers.

In the fortnight to April 3, Japan's Nikkei 225 share index fell by 8 per cent. Its biggest fall came in the six months to January this year, when the market dropped 27 per cent. After a turbulent week, the Nikkei 225 closed on Friday at 16,481.

Those nursing losses on their Japanese investments will find it hard to remember that Japan was once one of the world financial superpowers — second only to the US in the size of its stock market. Although Japan is still the world's second-largest economy, the country's humiliation was completed this week when the International Monetary Fund, the world economic rescue service, gave warning about weakness in the country. Those holding on to their investments must now be wondering whether to cut their losses and put their hard-earned money somewhere else, or to wait for recovery.

Figures from Autif revealed that £157 million was switched from Japanese funds in the first month of this year. This was more than twice the amount of money that was switched from these funds last year. People who do not hold any investments in the country have been looking for the bottom of the market, waiting for a signal that the worst is now over.

The opinion of UK fund managers can be broadly divided into two categories — those who are bearish over the short term and the long term and those who are bearish over the short term.

The Japanese Government, led by the Ryutaro Hashimoto, the beleaguered Prime Minister, has tried in vain to stimulate the economy by spending billions of yen on public work programmes. Other economic conditions that prevail in Japan would normally be enough to spark some sort of recovery — interest rates and inflation rates are practically zero, and savings rates are very high.

This week the Government unveiled yet another public spending package, which had been heavily trailed in an effort to boost share prices.

However, confidence remains low and is continuing to fall. The Tankan business confidence index found that Japanese businesses are now more pessimistic than they were three months ago.

Fund managers believe that with export markets in chaos, the key to economic recovery in Japan is domestic demand, and that the Government must try to persuade the public to part with their savings. However, Mark Fawcett of Gartmore says: "The Japanese do not want to spend their money. Many would rather put it under the mattress." He said that Japanese workers had seen the value of their pensions fall, and were worried about job security — not conditions that will send them to the shops. Even the £18 billion of tax cuts announced by the Government this week is unlikely to be enough to stimulate demand.

Mr Fawcett and others believe that there is more pain to come in Japan. The economy, he believes, has still to go through massive restructuring. He said: "They are not addressing the fundamental problems on the supply side. They do not want to accept the pain of a true recession."

The Japanese stock market is particularly susceptible to financial shocks because a large part of it consists of banks and insurance companies. Another collapse of a bank or broker will have a big impact on the level of the market.

Mr Fawcett said that he did not foresee the economy recovering until next year. Those investors with holdings in Japan may prefer to move their money elsewhere until they feel that the bottom has been reached.

Looking for HIGH INTEREST? We've got it covered.

Up to 8·0%* gross p.a. (net 6.4% p.a.)

60 days' notice.

*Rate applicable for deposits of £10,000 or more and inclusive of 1% p.a. bonus.

- Monthly interest option available
- Save any amount between £2,500-£250,000
- Minimum withdrawal £500

60 Direct Account	Annual Gross	Net
£2,500	7.7%	6.16%
£5,000	7.8%	6.24%
£10,000+	8.0%	6.4%

Rates inclusive of 1% p.a. bonus (0.8% net p.a.)

Legal & General

Trust us to deliver

CALL NOW 0500 11 12 00

Lines are open 8am-10pm Mon-Fri and 9am-4pm weekends. For your protection and to enable us to deal with any queries that may arise, calls will usually be recorded and randomly monitored. www.landg.com

Please quote ref: C006 DL05

Rates are variable except for the 1% gross p.a. bonus which is guaranteed to be added to your account until 30th June 1998. This is a limited offer. Rates correct at time of going to press. Interest paid net of income tax (currently 20%). Interest can be paid gross to UK residents subject to required certification. Interest can be paid monthly provided a minimum balance of £5,000 remains in the Account. Only available to applicants aged 18 or over and ordinarily resident in the UK. Withdrawals are subject to loss of interest if less than 60 days' notice is given. Full written terms and conditions will be sent with your application form. Minimum investment £2,500. Maximum investment £250,000. Minimum withdrawal £500. Legal & General Bank Limited. Registered in England No. 2404470. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.



Source: S&P Micropal. Offer to bid, net income reinvested. Since launch (3.8.87, 1.4.88 and 3.8.87 respectively) to 1.4.98.

Keep your sights on our star PEP

Find out about a Jupiter PEP for 98/99 today

As you can see from the figures above, the long-term record of Jupiter's three largest fully PEPable unit trusts puts the opposition in the shade.

All three have beaten **every other fund** in their respective sectors since launch more than ten years ago. Investors in any of them now have an investment of at least 4½ times their original stake.

For further information call us free, complete the coupon or talk to your financial adviser.

Set your sights on a star PEP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500 0500 98

JUPITER

Leaders in long-term performance

Five year performance to 1.4.98: Jupiter Income 1/79 + 197%, Jupiter UK Growth 3/129 + 183%, Jupiter European 4/112 +233%. Source: S&P Micropal. Offer to bid, net income reinvested.

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd., Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB

Please send me further information on: Jupiter PEP ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐ PEP Transfer ☐

Print Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) ..... Address .....

..... Post Code T11.04

Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of AUTIF. A subsidiary of Commerzbank AG, one of Germany's leading banks. The value of an investment in a unit trust and the income from it can go down as well as up, it may be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. It was announced in the March 1998 Budget that tax credits will continue to be reclaimable in a PEP although no subscriptions can be made after 5 April 1999. From 6 April 1999 PEPs will have the same tax advantages as the new Individual Savings Account. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Up to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Growth & Income Fund, Income Trust and High Income Fund. This may accordingly restrict capital growth. For your security we may record or randomly monitor all telephone calls. If you are unsure of the suitability of this investment please contact your financial adviser. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Scheme particulars and key features documents may also be obtained from that address.

3 FREE issues of Moneywise

The only personal finance magazine you'll ever need!



PLUS FREE 'Personal Financial Security Guide' and 'Pension Planner' when you apply within 7 days.

Now you can enjoy the UK's best-selling personal finance magazine FREE for 3 months. Take advantage of expert advice on how to spend, save, invest and plan for the future. Subscribe today by completing and returning the Direct Debit form below. We won't charge your account until you've received your 3 free issues. By then we believe you'll find it indispensable.

Save 25% on our annual cover price

What's more, MONEYWISE will start saving you money straight away – not only are your first 3 issues absolutely FREE but your subscription will be just £6 a quarter, a saving off our full published price of 25%! Why hesitate? Subscribe at once for a richer future.

YOU'LL GET INDEPENDENT AND JARGON-FREE ADVICE EVERY MONTH

- Expert advice from experts in banking, investment and pensions
- Best buys – that will truly enrich your spending
- Increased earning power – reliable tips from blue chip companies to alternative investments
- Frank information on your rights as a taxpayer, investor, mortgage and consumer
- Increased returns on your investments
- Monthly features and in-depth investigations
- Information on share movements and house prices

Consumer Information. Please keep for reference. You are offered three free monthly issues of Moneywise magazine. Following your first three issues, if you do not write to us and your bank to cancel you will subscribe at the discounted rate of £24 every three months, your subscription to Moneywise will begin at £6 – an annual saving of £6.48 off our full published price of £32.48 – and the next will be debited from your bank account at quarterly intervals. A subscription confirmation notice is recommended. You will be notified of any price changes prior to renewal. You may cancel at any time and receive a refund for unused and unmailed issues. This offer applies to the UK only. Orders are subject to acceptance by IPC Publications. Personal data will be used only by IPC Publications and its associated companies, details of which can be obtained from them from IPC Publications, IPC Publications observes the Code of Practice of the Direct Marketing Association, details of which can be obtained from the address: IPC Publications, 19 Westferry Circus, London E14 4HE. Registered number 208087 England. SM Hollis, Managing Director. JP Reynolds, PD Stott.

YES! Please send me the next 3 months issues of Moneywise – FREE!

WITH CLOSES APR 22

I understand that if I do not wish to continue after my three months, free trial, I can cancel this order at any time before payment is due on 12th June 1998 and not owe you anything. But if I decide to continue, I need do nothing – my subscription will be for 20 MONEYWISE each month at the current price of £6 a quarter, paid by Direct Debit.

Instruction to your bank/building society.

Please fill in the whole form and send it back FREE to: Moneywise, FREEPOST LON11259, 11 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4BR

DIRECT Debit

Originator's Reference No. 025957

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To the Manager Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holders

3. Branch Sort Code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque)

4. Bank/Building Society account number

5. Your name and address

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Title Full name

Address

Postcode

6. Reference number

12 001-4 5533

7. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay IPC Publications Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with IPC Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature(s) Date

Bank/Building Societies may not accept instruction to pay Direct Debits from some types of account.

THE PEP TO END ALL PEPS.

SAVE & PROSPER GROWTH FUND	
Initial PEP charge	Average annual growth
0%*	25.6%†

*Subject to 0.5% Government Stamp Duty.

Your last chance to make the most of PEPs began on April 6th. So, if you want to take maximum advantage over the next twelve months, the time to start is now. Our Growth Fund PEP has delivered a massive average annual growth of 25.6%. It carries an initial charge of precisely nothing (except 0.5% to the Government in Stamp Duty). You can invest a lump sum at the outset, or save monthly (any amount between £50 and £500) through our regular savings plan at no extra charge. Give your ISA a head start: give us a call.

LINES OPEN 8am TO 9pm, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

0800 829 400

SAVE & PROSPER

www.prosper.co.uk

†Based on buying to selling price with gross income reinvested since relaunch on 24.05.96 to 02.03.98. Five years: 20.2% p.a. Source: Micropal. Growth Fund (formerly Scottbits) changed investment objective on 24.5.96. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions are not guaranteed: their value will depend on individual circumstances. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. It has been announced that from 6th April 1999 it will not be possible to invest in a PEP. In the meantime you will not be disadvantaged by investing in a PEP. Save & Prosper is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group. 1978/009



With the Beatles the value of memorabilia is likely to hold up better than it is for items relating to one-hit wonders

Will it be fab for you?

Clare Stewart looks at how to start a collection of pop memorabilia

Fortunes are made and lost in the world of pop and rock music and only a handful of artists ever make it on an international scale.

Forecasting who will be big is always risky, but spotting the new Jimi Hendrix can pay off for the private collector of pop and rock memorabilia.

It is a growing market, and demand from private buyers, dealers and themed restaurants are sending prices rocketing. But it is also an unpredictable market. A T-shirt signed by Noel Gallagher may be desirable today, but it is not necessarily a bankable asset to see you comfortably through retirement in 20 years' time.

Experts constantly say buy what you like and interests you, not what you think will be a good investment.

Recent examples of top-selling items from auction houses give an indication which names are good sellers. In February at Bonhams, Beatles-related pieces fetched some of the highest prices. A set of 59 black and white negatives of John Lennon and Yoko Ono taken during the 1969 Bed-In for Peace in Montreal sold for £28,000. An unpublished lyric by Jimi Hendrix, scribbled on a few pieces of United Airlines notepaper, fetched £15,000.

Ted Owen, the entertainment specialist at Bonhams, says: "If the item belonged to one of the legends such as the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd or Marc Bolan, it is going to see a good price."

He says the Beatles still lead the field and prices are rising. "Prices for Elvis items may have levelled, as there have been a lot of sales and we have seen some amazing prices, but the Beatles will go on — they have always been popular. The Japanese are particularly enthusiastic, and at a Beatles-only sale by Bonhams in Tokyo last year, a collector paid £48,000 for Sir Paul McCartney's birth certificate.

Carey Wallace, the pop specialist at Christie's, says that items that will have a lasting value will have belonged to artists who have influenced the music world. Thus tartan scarves from the Bay City Rollers are unlikely to generate much interest, while items from the Sex Pistols are more likely to sell well.

At Christie's on April 20, there will be more than 300 lots, with estimated prices from £100 to £20,000. Elvis treasures likely to attract attention include a page of handwritten lyrics from 1959, estimated to go for between £4,500 and £5,000, and a cream suit made for Elvis in the 1970s will probably fetch between £8,000 and £12,000.

Among the 100 lots of Beatles items will be the only known example of the signatures of the five original band members, including Stuart Sutcliffe and Pete Best.

For Oasis fans, there is a rare cassette recording of songs written and performed by Noel Gallagher before the formation of Oasis, which is expected to make between £4,000 and £6,000.

Amazingly, a life-size cardboard cut-out of the Spice Girls made for a Pepsi promotion is estimated to fetch between £500 and £1,100.

Putting a value on contemporary items is hard, says Miss Wallace. "You have to speculate on what interest there may be, when there is no precedent."

Collectors have to be prepared to see prices relating to a favourite artist or band fluctuate. Ted Owen, from Bonhams, says: "A few years ago items connected to Bros were fanatically collectible. Then, they were fanatically forgotten."

Other stars who have seen their saleroom popularity wane are Madonna and Michael Jackson. One reason for this is the sheer amount of signed material that has come onto the market. Christie's sold one of Jackson's trademark jewelled gloves in 1990 for £15,000 but, says Carey Wallace, it would not reach that figure today.

Bonhams has a sale of rock posters on May 5 at which prices are expected to start at £100. There are also numerous specialist fairs and events around the country. Made in Heaven is one organiser that runs memorabilia events, which include stands for people who have just cleared their attics.

The next memorabilia show is at the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow on August 29 and 30. Another will be at the NEC in Birmingham on November 7 and 8.

Henry Cook, the organiser, says contemporary items are selling well. Recent copies of magazines with a particular star on the cover, which may have been £2.50 in the shops a few months ago, can now fetch £40 to £50.

Magazines such as *Record Collector* are useful for contacts with other enthusiasts, and notices of forthcoming events. Specialist fan club magazines are also a good source of information.

Experts advise serious collectors to look for material that is handwritten, or has some personal element, such as contracts, cheques or clothing. They will be much rarer than signed photographs for example, which are often produced in huge quantities.

But always check authenticity, as there are a lot of forgeries around, says Mr Owen, of Bonhams. It is usually difficult to get your money back if you buy from a small dealer or private collector. Ask for a description of the item from the dealer.

This is important if you subsequently find it to be other than what was sold to you. Purchases from auction houses are checked for authenticity and a buyer can seek a refund if the purchase is found to be a fake.

***Made in Heaven:* 01899-221 622; Bonhams: 0171-393 3900; Christie's: 0171-581 7611**

Barclays Stockbrokers

Start the 1998/99 tax year with a PEP.

- PEP now for the full year's tax-free benefit
- Invest £9,000, not just £6,000, in our Select AND Single Company PEP
- The Bed & Breakfast concept still works with a Bed & PEP!

Call 0345 776 776*

Our lines are open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 6.00pm, Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm.

*0345 NUMBERS ARE CHARGED AT LOCAL RATES AND CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED FROM WITHIN THE UK. TELEPHONE CALLS TO THIS NUMBER MAY BE TAPE RECORDED AND/OR MONITORED. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE. BARCLAYS STOCKBROKERS LIMITED IS A MEMBER OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE. REGULATED BY SFA AND A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF BARCLAYS BANK PLC. REGISTERED IN ENGLAND. REG. NO. 1986161. REGISTERED OFFICE: 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH.

Turn your pension fund into a very equitable income.

In order to relax and enjoy a comfortable standard of living in retirement you need to find a way of making your pension fund work as hard as possible.

Traditionally, the usual choice of pension has been one providing fixed payments. Now, at The Equitable Life, you can choose from a wide range of annuity options.

We offer with-profits and unit-linked annuities, as well as index-linked and guaranteed annuities. For those who want greater flexibility, managed pensions and staggered vesting facilities are also available.

No one else offers a choice this wide.

If you would like to find out more about how to enjoy an Equitable income in retirement then call us on (0990) 38 48 58 or return the coupon below for more information by post and by telephone.

www.equitable.co.uk

For your security your telephone call may be recorded
Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP21 7BR

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
I would welcome information on the Equitable range of annuities ☐
I expect to take the benefits from a personal pension plan in the near future ☐
NAME (Mr Mrs Miss) _____ TMNJ8B
ADDRESS _____
Tel: (Office) _____ Postcode _____
Tel: (Home) _____
Date of Birth _____
We guarantee that no company outside The Equitable and its subsidiaries will receive these details. If, however, you would prefer to receive no further information from us, please tick this box ☐

Founded 1762

The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

TO SAVE YOUR HARD EARNED CASH TRY THIS SOFT OPTION

Thanks to TaxCalc, the UK's best selling personal taxation software, it's never been easier to comply with Self Assessment. Simply key in your income details and TaxCalc will automatically compute your tax liability.

TaxCalc provides a wealth of money saving tax advice, including over 40 tax saving tips, supported by extensive Help Files specially written by the experts at Which?. When you're satisfied that you have minimised your tax liability and claimed any tax refund owing, simply print out your completed, Revenue approved, Tax Return.

Just £29.99, inc. FREE P&P, phone now quoting ref. TT/11 and your credit card details.

WHICH? software

ORDER LINE 0990 084 201

Mon-Fri 0900-2200 hrs and Sat-Sun 1000-1800 hrs.

Over 100,000 copies sold

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES
Direct Line Instant Access Account
UP TO 7.25% GROSS†

MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	APR
7.94%	8.2%

PERSONAL LOAN RATES	
Direct Line Personal Loans	
AMOUNT OF LOAN	APR
£3,000	13.9%
£6,000	12.8%
£10,000	11.8%

All rates correct at 30th March 1998.

0181 667 1121 SAVINGS

0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES

0181 680 9966 PERSONAL LOANS

DIRECT LINE FINANCIAL SERVICES

www.directline.co.uk

Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number quoting ref. TTBB50

Mortgages, savings and personal loans provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. For savings, deposits and withdrawals via your bank account – allow 3 working days. †The gross rate is the rate paid without deduction of income tax and is based on annual payment of interest. Full terms and conditions of the account are available on request. For mortgages, security required. Direct Line mortgages from £20,000 to £300,000 are available for up to 90% of the property valuation or purchase price, whichever is the lower. Written quotations on request. Subject to status. All rates quoted above are variable.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Mortgages and personal loans available in England, Scotland and Wales. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Free guide to help win the tax battle

Price Waterhouse marks the start of the new tax year with *Tax Planning Focus*, a guide to efficient tax and financial planning. The guide examines a range of issues raised by the Chancellor's Budget last month and looks forward to possible future changes.

Questions considered include: who are the winners and losers in capital gains tax changes?; how will profit-related pay be replaced?; is the company car still an attractive benefit?; and how much should a self-assessment penalty notice worry you? Free from Price Waterhouse publications department (0171-939 3000).

☐ A plan-of-action guide for those who have been made redundant or asked to take early retirement has been produced by Towry Law, the independent financial adviser. *Changing Employment and Personal Finance* has been designed to deal with all financial aspects of redundancy and begins with an action plan including whom to tell and how to handle the loss of earnings. It explains the state benefits available and how to deal with the longer-term problem of mortgage repayments. For a copy, telephone 0345-868 244.

☐ A rapid response pledge, plus a discount for a callout-free year, has been announced by the Environmental Transport Association (ETA). The ETA has an average response time of 35 minutes, and the motoring organisation is confident that it will be able to offer breakdown assistance in less than an hour. If not, ETA promises to pay £10 to a member left waiting. Discounts of up to 20 per cent may be reclaimed if a member does not make any callouts during the year. To join ETA or for further details, telephone 01932-828 882.

☐ A free guide to investing in traded endowment plans (Teps) has been issued by Rickman Tooze, the independent financial adviser. A Tep is a with-profits endowment policy which the original policyholder sells in mid-term. The guide says Teps are a relatively low-risk investment and can, if required, be viewed as fairly short-term. They may also be bought quite cheaply. For a copy, telephone 0800-783 9568.

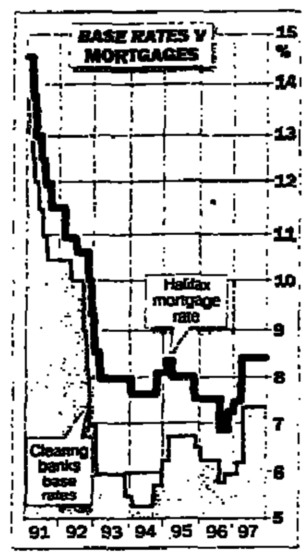
LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Standard Life Bank 0345 555657	Direct Access	InstantT	£1	6.96	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0845 8450829	Instant Access	InstantB	£100	7.00	Yly
Safeway 0800 995995	Direct Savings	InstantB	£1,000	7.30	Yly
Northern Rock 0845 600 6767	Save Direct Inst	InstantB	£5,000	7.80	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 30	30 day	£1,000	7.60	Yly
Stroud & Swindon BS 0345 252423	Direct 30	30 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct 4	60 day B	£10,000	8.00	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Base Plus	1 year	£2,001	8.00	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Norwich & Peterborough 01733 372222		5 year	£100	8.00	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	8.00	Yly
Darlington BS 01325 366366		5 year	£1,000	8.00	Yly
Britannia BS 0800 132304		5 year	£3,000	8.00	Yly



CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.57%N	6.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.69%NC	8.60%N	Nil

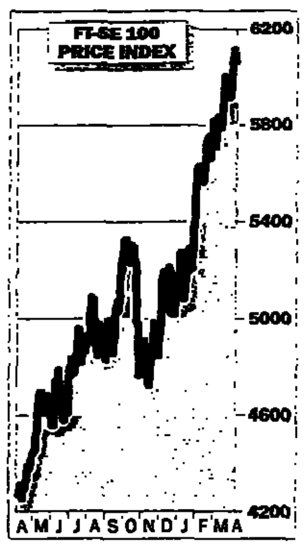
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock 0345 421421	9.90%H	£183.13	£166.11
Yorkshire Bank 0800 202122	*12.50%*	*£190.33*	*£165.77*
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Operated by post or telephone, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate, H = If insurance not arranged APR 12.7 per cent, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = Operated by Post, T = Operated by Telephone.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.60	1.20	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*ε	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499***	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ε	7.00	5.60	4.20	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bondε	6.50	5.20	3.90	1,000-250K**		0645 645000
46th Issue Cert† ‡	4.80			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.00			25-1,000	8day	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond‡ ε	6.00	4.80	3.60	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
13th Ind Linked† ‡	2.25			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S5 ε	6.10	4.88	3.66	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt a/c) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ‡ Unlimited additional holdgs for reinvested proceeds † Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years ‡0.2% net bonus for £20,000+, £100,000 ε in addition to S1, S2, S3 and S4 holdings ε Taxable but cred in full *£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Life ....Level		£ 8,840	£ 9,772	£11,298
Canada Life ....Level		£ 8,515	£ 9,692	£11,388
Commercial Un....Level		£ 8,322	£ 9,632	£11,362
Standard Life ....Level		£ 8,516	£ 9,620	£11,048
Legal & General...Level		£ 8,520	£ 9,563	£10,879

SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Norwich Union.....Level		£7,791	£ 8,649	£ 9,863
Sun Life ....Level		£7,810	£ 8,631	£ 9,812
Canada Life ....Level		£7,790	£ 8,630	£ 9,843
Equitable Life.......Level		£7,810	£ 8,552	£ 9,622
Generali ....Level		£7,553	£ 8,497	£ 9,790

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: / Female:	Age 60 / Age 55	Age 65 / Age 60	Age 70 / Age 65
Sun Life ....Level		£7,405	£8,056	£ 8,962
Equitable Life.......Level		£7,435	£8,021	£ 8,842
Norwich Union.....Level		£7,360	£7,923	£ 8,663
Prudential ....Level		£7,382	£7,905	£ 8,674
Generali ....Level		£7,163	£7,837	£ 8,753

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at April 9, 1998

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.70
	5,000	AIG Life	6.22
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.95
	5,000	AIG Life	6.00
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.32
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.05
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.30
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.90
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.15
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	5.80

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-493 7900. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	132.25	7.09	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	160.50	7.24	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	176.75	7.36	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	182.75	7.11	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	172.00	7.05	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	163.00	7.21	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	192.00	6.97	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	157.00	6.85	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	183.00	6.90	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	190.25	6.77	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	166.25	7.07	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	119.75	7.31	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	156.50	7.67	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	192.75	7.07	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	184.00	7.27	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	174.75	7.22	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source* Greenwich NatWest



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland 01189 684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths Discts, £280 fee
Northern Rock¹ 0845 6050500	3.89	to £250k	95	Fixed to 1.9.00 £395 fee
Alliance & Leic 0345 108108	4.90	£20-300k	75	Fixed to 1.5.00 0.5% fee, £300 mx
Halifax 01422 333333	4.95	no max	90	Fixed to 31.8.00 £295 fee
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.19	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.5.00 £295 fee

NB. ¹ compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.10	to £150k	95	Fixed-1 yr, 0.75% fee
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.10	£1-150k	80	8.54% dsc-1 yr £250 fee
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.50	£25-175k	95	8% disc-6 mths, more dscs apply
Bank of Ireland 0118 9684300	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed 6 mths, more dscs, £280 fee
Leeds & Holbeck¹ 0113 225 7777	1.45	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, more discs apply

NB. ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance.

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Bank of Ireland *01189 684300*	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fix 6 mths, more *dscs, £280 fee*
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	no max	95	Fix to 1.4.99 £295 fee
Newbury *01635 43676*	5.10	£30-100k	95	3% disc-12 mnths
Wesleyan Homeloans 0121 2003003	5.35	to £100k	95	3.25% dis-12 mths
Alliance & Leic¹ 0345 108108	5.85	£20-300k	95	Fixed to 1.5.00 £150 fee

NB. ¹ Compulsory products, buildings and contents insurance
Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

Up to 7.80% gross p.a. variable.
First class postal account with 30 days notice.
CALL FREE 24 HRS
0800 20 21 21
BRISTOL & WEST
Quote Ref [illegible]
We specialise in mortgages, savings, investments and nothing else.
Postal 30 Account minimum investment £5,000. 7.80% gross p.a. paid on investments of £10,000+. Interest paid annually on 1st May. Terms & Conditions available on request. Bristol & West plc. Registered in England No. 2124201. Registered Office: PO Box 27, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS99 7AX.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	630.10	666.80	+1.20	...
UK Equity	504.70	557.40	+1.30	..
Property	483.10	511.30	+0.30	
Fixed Interest	375.40	397.70	+0.20	..
Money	286.10	302.80	+0.30	..
International	511.90	541.70	-0.90	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	231.80	244.00	+0.10	...
Ethical S4	203.70	214.50	-1.00	
International S4	242.90	255.70	...	0.00
Protected Gth S4	135.10	142.30	..	0.00
Asian Pacific	159.00	167.40	+3.40	..
European S4	314.00	331.50	-3.00	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	462.50	486.90	+0.40	..
Equity Ser 4	356.30	375.10	-2.10	
Man Ser 4	948.10	998.00	-2.70	...
Conv Ser 4	375.60	395.40	-0.30	
Money Ser 4	375.20	395.00	+0.40	
Fixed Int Ser 4	465.50	490.00	+1.50	
American Ser 4	924.20	972.90	-16.70	..
High Inc Ser 4	1111.10	1169.60	-2.90	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	268.60	282.80	+1.00	
Japan Ser 4	235.60	248.00	+9.50	
Formerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd				
Security Fund	907.80	960.70	-2.90	
British Fund	988.40	1046.00	-0.20	
International	803.10	849.90	-0.40	
Dollar Fund	754.50	798.50	-13.10	
Capital Fund	764.80	809.40	+1.10	
Income Fund	1221.10	1292.20		
Property Series A	588.10	622.40	...	4.70
Property Units	983.90	1033.10		
Financial Fund	1231.90	1303.60	+26.50	..
Managed Ser A	832.40	880.90	-1.20	
Managed Units	1509.80	1587.40	+2.20	..
High Yield Fund	1094.60	1158.40	-0.70	..
Money Series A	332.00	351.40	-0.20	..
Money Units	445.70	469.20	-0.30	..
Equity Fund	974.40	1031.20	+1.40	..
Fixed Interest	496.60	525.60	-1.30	..
Indexed Secs	231.90	245.40	+0.10	..
European Fund	1300.10	1376.70	+10.20	
Natural Res	264.50	279.90	+0.10	..
Far East Fund	467.00	494.20	+7.50	
Smaller Cos	774.80	819.90	-1.30	
Special Sits	868.60	919.20	-1.40	..
Man Currency	296.70	314.00	-0.20	..
Japanese Tech	227.70	241.00	+3.70	..
US Smaller Cos	561.90	594.70	-17.70	..
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	282.80	297.70		
Financial Ser I	101.40	106.80	+2.20	..
Fixed Interest	419.20	441.30	+0.40	..
Gold	69.10	72.80	-2.90	
Managed	611.60	650.00	+1.30	
Mngd Growth	293.50	309.50	+0.40	
Property	399.30	420.60		
Residential Prop	126.00	132.70		
TSB American	429.90	452.60	-0.00	
TSB Brit Gwth	1518.50	1598.50	+3.40	
TSB European	477.50	502.70	+3.50	
TSB Income	705.10	742.30	-0.30	
TSB Intl	606.90	638.80	+1.00	
TSB Pacific	326.00	343.30	-5.30	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	428.60	451.40	-0.40	
Equity Acc	2204.50	2320.60	+11.50	
Property Acc	782.10	823.30	+2.90	
Far East Acc	251.80	265.10	+5.40	
Managed Capital	747.20	786.60	+3.00	
-do- Acc	1643.30	1729.70	+8.60	
Overseas Acc	1632.40	1718.30	+5.40	
Gilt Edged Acc	662.00	696.80	+3.20	
Amer Equity Acc	1511.10	1590.70	-25.70	
Amer Man Acc	624.90	657.80	-9.70	
Amer Prop Acc	131.60	138.60	+0.20	
Distribution Bonds	29.60	31.20	+0.20	
AAA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	194.00	204.30	+0.60	
Balced Ser 6	1089.80	1147.20	+2.20	..
Opportunity Ser 6	258.10	271.70	+0.30	..
Distribution Ser 6	119.80	126.20	+0.50	5.64
UK Equities Ser 6	1723.50	1814.30	+5.30	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	1847.40	1944.70	+2.50	..
North Amer Ser 6	753.40	793.10	-16.10	
Far East Ser 6	450.40	474.20	-14.20	
Europe Ser 6	704.50	741.60	+0.50	
Intnl Ser 6	790.70	832.40	+0.80	
Property Ser 6	641.60	675.40	+1.70	
Fixed Int Ser 6	555.40	584.70	+2.00	
Ind-Lnkd Sec Sn	230.30	242.50	+0.10	
Fixed Dep Ser 6	341.90	359.90	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1489.10	1567.50	-3.20	..
-do- Initial	875.10	921.20	-1.90	..
Gilt Edged Acc	521.90	549.40	-2.40	..
-do- Initial	309.40	325.70	+1.40	..
International Acc	523.40	551.00	+1.40	..
-do- Initial	308.30	324.60	+0.80	..
Managed Acc	798.60	840.70	+0.20	...
-do- Initial	472.10	497.00	+0.10	..
Money Acc	333.20	350.80	+0.30	...
Property Acc	357.70	376.60	+0.20	...
-do- Initial	212.00	223.20		
America Acc	541.00	569.50	-9.20	..
Far East Gwth	169.70	178.70	+3.40	..
Financial Acc	686.70	722.90	-2.00	..
500 Accum	623.50	656.40	-2.60	..
Japan Acc	179.70	189.20	+11.50	..
Income Acc	863.90	909.40	-2.10	..
Special Sits Acc	441.50	465.80	-1.30	..
Univ Tech Acc	224.20	236.00	+0.10	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1148.44	1209.44	+2.14	...
Income Fund	1253.69	1319.68	-2.05	...
Extra Income	1130.00	1189.48	-4.42	...
Worldwide Gth	692.21	728.65	+8.83	...
Balanced Fund	1102.78	1160.83	-2.35	...
Smllr Cos Recov	1212.59	1276.42	-0.62	...
N Amer & Genrl	641.64	675.42	+2.63	...
Pacific Basin	286.02	301.18	+0.71	...
German Growth	382.64	402.78	+17.40	...
Japan Growth	124.58	131.09	+0.85	...
The UK Gth Fd	357.63	376.46	-0.45	...
Contl Euro Gth	229.19	241.26	+4.22	...
Property Fund	460.76	485.02	+2.22	...
Fixed Interest	436.64	459.63	+2.60	...
Cash Fund	323.49	340.52	+0.26	...
Managed Inv	713.63	751.19	+1.21	...
Nth Amer Recov	395.68	416.51	-6.00	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	252.10	266.80	-0.80	...
Performance Plus	293.30	310.30	-0.50	...
With Profit Perf	203.40	215.20	+0.20	...
UK Opportunity	350.10	370.40	-3.30	...
Euro Opportunity	381.30	403.40	-5.50	...
North Amer Opp	323.80	342.40	-6.90	...
Far East Opp	175.20	185.40	-5.90	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	[illegible]	[illegible]	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	247.90	262.40	+0.10	...
Fixed Int	269.00	284.50	+1.10	...
Cash	181.10	191.60	+0.30	6.49
Overseas	338.00	357.60	+0.50	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	528.10	555.90	-1.30	...
UK Equity	1059.10	1114.90	-9.90	...
Property	343.20	360.20	+0.10	...
Money Market	287.00	302.20	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	390.70	411.30	+1.70	...
Japan	253.10	266.50	+8.30	...
North America	288.00	303.20	-6.10	...
International	522.30	549.80	+0.90	...
European	487.60	513.30	-7.00	...
Far East	129.70	136.60	+4.30	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	495.80	519.80	+2.20	..
Property	318.00	334.80	...	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	310.00	326.40	+2.80	..
Equity	636.80	670.40	+2.90	..
Cash	244.70	257.60	+0.20	..
CLife Euro Mgd	620.20	652.90	-10.30	..
CLife Intl Fd	409.00	430.60	+1.50	..
Managed Fund	1054.20	1109.70	+4.60	..
Property Fund	637.50	671.00	-0.10	..
Equity Fund	1571.60	1654.30	+7.00	..
Gilt Edged Fd	799.90	842.00	+7.20	..
Deposit Fund	377.70	397.60	+0.40	..
Investment Fd	707.90	743.30	+2.20	..
International	651.00	685.30	+2.40	..
Formerly Albany Life				
UK Equity	2459.50	2588.90	-5.00	..
Merc European	680.40	716.30	-4.30	..
Merc Fxd Int	657.50	692.10	+2.00	..
Gtd Money	381.70	401.80	+0.40	..
Mercury Intl Mgd	910.20	958.10	+1.80	..
Merc Int Fxd Int	196.00	206.30	+1.20	..
Mercury Japan	198.70	209.10	+11.30	..
Merc Nth Amer	565.40	595.10	-4.60	..
UK Property	527.70	555.40	+0.80	..
Merc Multip Inv	1472.00	1550.10	+0.40	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	214.50	225.80		
Managed Fund	969.50	1020.60	+3.50	...
Equity Fund	636.50	669.50	+0.90	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	432.00	454.80	+1.00	...
Ruby	230.60	242.80	+1.50	...
Emerald	182.70	190.30	-0.50	..
Equity	554.70	583.90	-0.70	...
Property	263.10	277.00	+0.10	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	271.50	285.70	+1.40	...
Indexed Secs	213.80	225.10	+0.70	...
Cash	213.80	225.10	-0.20	...
Nth American	427.50	450.10	-9.20	...
Far East	228.90	240.90	+5.30	...
International	320.40	337.30	-0.60	..
Special Sits	584.60	615.40	-0.60	...
Intl Income	530.70	548.20	+1.00	...
European	612.70	645.00	-2.60	...
Japanese	92.10	97.00	+3.00	...
SE Asia	316.80	333.30	+4.80	...
With Profits Rer	202.30	212.90	+0.30	...
-do- Spec	202.20	212.90	-0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	519.90	547.30	+1.70	...
Equity	719.40	757.30	+1.90	...
Property	250.70	263.90	+0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	342.10	361.20	+1.60	...
Index Linked	232.80	245.10	+0.90	...
Cash	298.70	314.50	+0.30	...
Nth American	543.10	571.70	-12.80	...
Far East Acc	238.70	251.30	+7.10	...
International Acc	403.10	424.30	+0.90	...
Special Sits	893.10	941.00	-0.10	...
European Flex	612.30	644.40	+3.10	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units): Key I	297.54	...	+6.34	
-do- Pacemaker I	421.44	...	+11.34	
-do- Cash	229.47	241.55	+0.17	
-do- Equity	877.56	923.75	+14.61	
-do- Fxd Int	465.56	490.06	+4.34	
-do- Managed	612.35	644.47	+17.11	
-do- Property	427.47	448.39	+1.35	
(Pens) Cash Cap	221.55	233.22	+0.11	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Cash Inv	364.65	383.86	+0.40	...
-do- Equity Cap	2275.87	2395.66	-6.97	...
-do- Equity Inv	3745.88	3943.04	-9.21	...
-do- Fixed Cap	501.60	528.01	+1.65	...
-do- Fixed Inv	825.59	869.05	+3.20	...
-do- Index Cap	240.75	253.43	+0.57	...
-do- Index Inv	396.25	417.12	+1.18	...
-do- Mngd Cap	882.78	929.25	-1.24	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1452.98	1529.46	-1.16	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	1364.96	..	+34.73	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	144.89	...	+3.03	...
Prime: Managed	604.70	636.60	+1.30	...
Prime: UK Equity	845.10	889.60	+0.60	...
Prime: Int Equity	380.10	400.20	+2.40	...
Prime: Property	285.30	300.40	+0.50	...
Prime: Fxd Int	294.00	309.50	+0.30	...
Prime Index-Lnk	212.00	224.20	+0.80	..
Prime: Cash	234.90	247.30	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744848				
Managed Fund	1613.10	1698.00	+6.00	..
Equity II	2602.30	2739.20	+7.80	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (58d) ‡	121.50	...	+0.10	..
Secure (2) ‡	114.40	...	+0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	141.10	...	+0.60	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	145.20	.	+0.60	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	131.60	...	+0.10	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	116.70	...	+0.10	..
Equity Mgd S ‡	351.50	370.00	+1.50	...
Managed S ‡	346.30	364.60	+1.40	..
Adventurous S ‡	270.00	284.30	+0.20	..
Managed (2)	235.70	248.20	+1.00	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	467.40	484.40	+2.30	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	122.70	...	+0.10	...
Secure (2) ‡	116.00	...	+0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	147.50	...	+0.80	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	151.30	...	+0.80	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	133.80	...	+0.20	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	118.70	...	+0.20	..
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	472.20	497.10	-0.90	...
UK Equity	693.50	730.10	-1.70	...
Stewardship	547.40	576.30	-5.70	..
Overseas Equity	421.80	444.00	-1.00	...
North American	266.60	280.70	-2.80	..
Pacific Basin	119.90	126.30	+2.90	...
European	455.10	479.10	-0.30	...
Property	215.00	226.40	+0.30	..
Fixed Interest	313.10	329.60	+0.50	...
Index Linked	212.80	224.00	+0.80	...
Cash	231.40	243.60	+0.20	..
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	690.40	726.70	+2.70	...
Managed	1076.40	1133.00	-2.30	...
Deposit	396.20	417.00	+0.30	..
Property	598.40	629.80	+0.90	..
American	755.20	794.90	-9.90	.
Australian	683.60	719.50	+4.70	..
European	1138.80	1198.70	-2.50	...
Income Acc	1261.90	1328.30	-4.80	.
-do- Dist	683.80	719.70	-2.80	3.97
International	454.30	478.20	-1.80	...
Japan Smaller	249.40	262.50	+6.00	...
Singapore & Mal	282.30	297.10	+4.50	...
Tokyo Fund	522.00	549.40	+12.80	...
UK Equity	973.50	1024.70	-3.40	..
CCM Vnged Mg	1147.30	1207.60	-2.90	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond *EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567*				
GT Plan Far East	239.60	252.30	+2.50	...
GT Plan Wwide	627.60	660.70	+1.90	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	922.20	922.20	-4.30	...
-do- Inv A	922.10	970.80	-4.40	...
UK Equity	651.70	686.10	-4.80	..
Gilt Plus	253.40	266.80	+0.70	...
Managed	422.50	444.80	-2.00	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	312.80	329.20	+0.90	..
Unitised Profit	173.00	182.10	+0.30	...
UK Equity	496.30	522.30	+0.20	...
Fixed Int	248.60	261.60	+1.00	...
Index-Linked	206.00	216.70	+0.60	..
Cash Deposit	198.70	209.00	+0.10	...
Property	211.30	222.30	-0.10	...
International	240.30	252.80	...	...
American	303.20	319.10	-5.60	..
Japan	170.50	179.30	+9.00	...
Japan Smllr Cos	174.50	183.60	+9.30	...
European	313.20	329.60	+3.00	...
Pacific Fund	199.70	210.10	+2.60	..
Conv Life	200.60	211.10	...	..
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	714.90	752.50	+2.00	...
Managed Initial	432.40	455.20	+1.00	...
Equity Ord	1256.60	1321.70	+0.60	..
Equity Init	759.40	799.40	-0.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	251.20	264.40	+0.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	158.70	167.10	+0.40	...
Oseas Equity Ord	486.30	511.90	+3.00	...
Oseas Equity Init	294.10	309.60	+1.60	...
Property Ord	328.40	345.70	+0.20	...
Property Init	198.70	209.20	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	363.70	382.80	+1.30	...
Fixed Int Init	220.00	231.60	+0.80	...
Deposit Ord	237.10	249.60	+0.10	...
Deposit Initial	143.40	150.90	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Am Prop Bds	993.80	1035.20	...	...
Managed Initial	655.00	689.50	-1.10	...
-do- Acc	1003.60	1056.40	-1.70	...
Equity Initial	1117.10	1175.90	-3.50	...
-do- Acc	1711.70	1801.80	-5.20	...
Fixed Int Initial	539.10	567.40	+1.20	...
-do- Acc	826.00	869.50	+2.00	...
Intl Initial	562.10	591.70	-1.70	...
-do- Acc	861.30	906.70	-2.60	...
Nth Amer Initial	326.40	343.50	-5.80	...
-do- Acc	455.10	479.00	-8.00	...
Pacific Initial	148.10	155.90	+4.30	...
-do- Acc	204.60	215.30	+5.90	...
Property Initial	204.90	215.70	...	...
-do- Acc	313.90	330.40	...	...
Index-Lnkd Inld	189.50	199.50	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	264.30	278.10	+0.70	...
Deposit Initial	212.00	223.10	+0.20	.
-do- Acc	324.80	341.90	+0.30	...
Euro Initial	172.60	181.70	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	222.40	234.10	-0.60	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611119				
Life Funds				
Foundation	38.42	40.44	+0.09	...
Balanced	38.41	40.43	+0.05	...
Opportunity	39.51	41.59	+0.05	...
Deposit	27.10	28.53	+0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	30.58	32.19	+0.16	..
Balanced S2	30.95	32.58	+0.14	...
Opportunity S2	30.49	32.09	+0.13	...
Deposit S2	25.61	26.96	+0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840800				
Managed	253.10	266.40	+0.80	...
-do- Pens	337.60	355.30	+1.10	...
UK Equity	299.90	315.60	+1.50	...
-do- Pens	383.80	403.90	+1.90	...
International	193.80	204.00	+2.50	...
-do- Pens	219.40	230.90	+3.40	...
Deposit	159.60	167.90	+0.20	...
-do- Pens	196.90	207.20	+0.30	...
For Hill Samuel see Abbey Life Assurance				
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	863.40	908.80	-5.20	...
Global Property	359.30	378.30	+6.30	..
Global Fixed Int	675.70	711.30	+6.20	..
Global Equity	955.60	1005.90	+5.30	..
Global Cash	244.90	257.80	+0.50	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN5 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	205.30	216.20	+0.30	..
Brit Opps Int	227.20	239.20	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	311.70	328.20	-0.10	..
Cash Initial	173.80	183.00	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	330.70	348.20	+0.40	...
Equity Initial	1064.00	1120.00	+2.70	...
-do- Acc	2024.60	2131.20	+5.30	...
Fixed Initial	410.30	431.90	+1.40	...
-do- Acc	780.80	821.90	+2.80	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	156.30	164.60	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	253.70	267.10	+0.40	...
Intl Initial	379.20	399.20	+2.60	...
-do- Acc	710.40	747.80	+4.90	...
Managed Initial	664.90	699.40	+2.60	...
-do- Acc	1246.10	1311.70	+4.90	..
Property Initial	242.20	255.00	+0.20	..
-do- Acc	460.90	485.20	+0.40	...
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	£226.06	..	+45.00	...
Property Units	3360.00	3537.00	+4.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	9676.00	£101.86	+24.00	..
2nd Equity Acc	1063.00	1119.00	+2.00	..
2nd High Inc Ac	1012.00	1065.00	...	
2nd Property Acc	300.90	316.60	+0.30	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	225.50	237.30	+0.50	..
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	670.10	706.20	+1.60	..
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	304.70	320.60	+1.00	..
2nd Deposit Acc	324.20	341.10	-0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	390.60	411.00	+1.30	.
2nd Amer Acc	1136.00	1195.00	-18.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	247.60	260.50	+0.90	.
2nd Index Acc	255.20	268.50	+0.50	.
2nd Far East Acc	260.80	274.50	-5.50	...
2nd Global Acc	204.30	214.90	+1.00	.
2nd Euro Acc	274.30	288.60	-0.10	..
2nd Japan Acc	110.50	116.20	+5.00	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	176.60	185.80	+0.70	...
2nd Cap Gilt Acc	195.30	205.50	+0.10	...
ex-Laurentian				
Property	640.90	674.50	+0.60	...
Managed	602.30	633.90	+1.90	..
American	676.20	711.70	-10.30	.
UK Equity Fd	772.30	812.80	+1.50	...
Japan	121.60	127.90	+5.50	...
Index-Lkd	238.50	240.50	+0.50	...
High Yield	1406.00	1480.00	...	..
Money	460.50	484.70	+0.40	...
International	459.00	483.10	+2.20	...
Perpetual Active	435.10	457.90	+0.70	.
Growth Acc	941.80	991.30	+2.30	...
Gilt Edged	553.30	582.30	-1.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	250.20	263.30	...	...
Far East	138.00	145.20	+3.00	...
LONDON LIFE Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol BS1 3AL 0117 984 7777				
Equity ‡	1518.10	...	+14.80	...
Fixed Interest ‡	575.60	...	+2.10	...
Property ‡	513.20	...	+1.10	...
Deposit ‡	340.60	...	-0.20	...
Mixed ‡	887.60	...	+6.70	...
Indexed Stock ‡	283.00	...	+0.60	...
International ‡	357.10	...	+1.80	...
Equity A ‡	350.60	...	+3.40	...
Fixed Int A ‡	254.20	...	+0.90	...
Property A ‡	224.60	...	+0.50	...
Deposit A ‡	199.30	...	-0.10	...
Mixed A ‡	290.30	...	+2.10	...
Index Stock A ‡	220.60	...	+0.40	...
International A ‡	222.10	...	+1.10	...
Equity P ‡	1371.30	...	+15.30	...
Fixed Int P ‡	801.30	...	+2.90	...
Property P ‡	393.50	...	+0.50	...
Deposit P ‡	412.30	...	-0.50	...
Mixed P ‡	866.60	...	+7.20	...
Index Stock P ‡	327.50	...	+0.50	...
International P ‡	440.90	...	+2.80	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	716.20	...	-0.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	1391.90	...	+2.80	...
Property Cap ‡	140.70	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	260.40	...	-0.40	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	220.90	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc ‡	412.30	...	+2.20	...
Equity Cap ‡	478.50	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	911.40	...	-0.90	...
Internal Cap ‡	271.90	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	511.20	...	+2.10	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	159.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	296.00	...	+0.10	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	453.10	...	-0.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	858.90	...	+1.90	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	643.00	...	+1.80	...
Capital Growth ‡	2948.70	...	+4.70	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	730.30	766.90	-18.10	...
Amer Rec Bond	830.20	871.80	-26.10	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	340.90	358.10	-8.80	...
Australasia Bd	291.50	306.20	+1.40	...
Commodity Bond	333.70	350.50	-0.70	...
Deposit Bond Acc	413.60	434.40	+0.60	...
Equity Bond Acc	2317.20	2433.20	-16.60	...
European Bd Acc	711.90	747.60	+3.60	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1288.60	1353.10	-9.60	...
Gilt Bond Acc	581.90	611.10	+3.10	...
Gold Bond Acc	133.50	140.20	+4.70	...
High Yield Bond	515.50	541.40	+5.30	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	258.70	271.70	-0.20	...
International Bd	980.90	1030.00	-7.50	...
Japan Bond Acc	153.70	161.50	+6.70	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	163.40	171.70	+2.00	...
Managed Bonds	1258.20	1321.20	+0.90	...
Prop Bond Acc	627.20	658.70	-0.70	...
Rec Bond Acc	1257.80	1320.80	-1.50	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	250.00	262.60	+2.30	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	360.80	379.80	+1.40	...
UK Equity Acc	568.40	598.40	-1.20	...
Special Sits.	151.80	159.80	-0.60	...
Special Sits Acc	239.10	251.70	-0.70	...
North American	301.80	317.70	-0.20	...
N American Acc	470.80	495.60	-8.40	...
Pacific Basin	260.30	274.00	+2.50	...
Pacific Basin Acc	420.00	442.20	+11.80	...
Fixed Interest	331.60	349.10	+0.70	...
Fixed Interest Acc	526.90	554.70	+1.90	...
Property	202.30	213.00	...	...
Property Acc	321.30	338.30	+0.30	...
Deposit	157.40	165.70	+0.10	...
Deposit Acc	249.90	263.10	+0.20	...
Managed	364.00	383.20	-2.10	...
Managed Acc	529.10	557.00	+0.50	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH *0117 9266 366*				
Property	489.50	515.20	+0.20	...
UK Equity	616.20	648.60	+0.20	...
Gilt Edged	814.50	857.30	+2.60	...
Interest Fund	460.30	484.50	+0.40	...
Managed Fd	697.30	734.00	+0.30	...
Intl Equity	785.00	826.30	+4.50	...
North American	357.80	376.60	-4.30	...
Far East	363.50	382.60	+7.70	...
Intl Currency	284.40	299.30	+1.20	...
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	718.80	756.60	+4.20	...
UK Equity	1098.10	1155.80	+2.40	...
Overseas Equity	592.60	623.70	+2.40	.
American	666.10	701.10	-10.40	...
Far East	439.70	462.80	+17.00	...
Property	249.20	262.30	...	...
Fixed Interest	507.00	533.60	+2.00	...
Indexed Gilt	295.90	311.40	+0.80	...
Deposit	250.00	263.10	+0.30	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD PO Box 896, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ 0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	202.30	212.80	+0.90	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	2273.90	2393.60	+8.90	..
Equity Fund	5513.50	5803.70	+23.60	..
Property Fd	773.70	814.40	+1.00	...
Fixed Int Fd	800.70	842.80	+3.20	..
Deposit Fund	405.50	427.90	+0.30	..
Intl Fund	352.20	370.70	+1.20	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	482.30	508.80	+1.10	...
Fxd Interest Acc	319.80	337.40	+0.90	...
International Acc	344.60	363.60	+1.70	...
Managed Acc	320.80	338.40	+2.10	...
Property Acc	229.70	242.40	-0.10	...
Money Acc	175.60	185.30	+0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	266.20	280.90	+2.40	...
Japan Equity Acc	76.20	80.40	+4.50	...
N Amer Acc	293.20	309.30	-1.00	..
Pacific Acc	100.50	106.10	+5.40	..
European Acc	342.70	361.50	+3.40	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	148.20	156.00	+0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	383.00	403.20	+0.30	...
Inv Equity	2174.10	2288.60	-6.00	...
Inv Managed	1347.10	1418.00	-5.90	...
Ret Managed	1585.10	1668.60	-3.00	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 01189 578334				
Managed	533.70	556.00	+9.90	.
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3228				
Managed Fund	1199.80	1263.00	+11.80	..
Equity Fund	2818.10	2966.50	+28.10	..
Intl Fund	850.50	894.80	-9.70	..
Fixed Interest	723.50	761.60	+1.70	..
Property Fund	559.00	588.50	-0.70	..
Cash Fund	417.60	439.60	+0.40	..
Pacific Basin	266.10	280.20	-14.00	..
N American Fd	516.10	543.30	-4.60	..
Euro Fund	538.50	566.90	+2.60	..
Balanced Fund	236.40	248.90	+2.20	..
Strategic Fund	270.00	284.30	+3.00	..
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (49) ‡	1149.60	...	+54.00	...
-do- Acc	603.40	635.30	+73.90	...
Op Prop	573.00	603.20	...	...
Op Equity	1666.10	1753.80	+3.20	..
Op High Yield	781.90	823.10	+3.30	..
Op Managed	1203.30	1266.60	+4.30	..
Op Deposit	449.00	472.60	+0.40	..
Japan Smlr	115.60	121.70	+2.20	..
Managed Gth	404.40	425.70	+2.40	..
British	605.00	636.90	-8.30	..
Global Bond	122.00	128.40	+2.20	..
Gold Share	62.00	65.30	-1.90	..
Japan	249.90	263.00	-4.30	..
UK Smlr Cos	717.30	755.10	+7.00	..
Mngd Growth	677.90	713.60	+11.30	..
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	580.80	611.30	+1.00	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	109.30	115.20	...	2.09
Deposit Fund (2)	436.90	461.90	+0.50	7.09
Gilt Fund	684.50	723.10	+0.90	7.24
Global Equity Fd	304.20	322.10	-0.50	..
Property Fund (46)	138.90	147.00	...	6.47
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	994.40	1046.80	+1.10	...
Fixed Interest	469.70	494.50	+2.30	...
Index-Linked	244.10	257.00	+1.40	...
International	570.50	600.60	+8.80	..
Property	359.30	378.30	+2.10	..
Cash	260.70	274.50	+0.20	..
Managed	672.10	707.50	+3.30	..
Cap Gteed Bd	208.90	219.80	+0.80	..
95% Safeguard	115.60	...	+0.40	..
100% Safeguard	105.50	...	+0.20	..
Wealth Pres Cap	121.30	...	+0.20	..
Wealth Pres Inc	98.80	...	+8.90	..
BonusBond ‡	115.30	...	+0.40	..
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE *28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF* 0131 556 9101				
Cash	208.53	219.50	+0.17	...
Index-Linked	209.30	220.30	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	239.90	252.60	+0.90	...
Mixed	394.40	415.30	-0.40	...
UK Equity	403.60	424.90	+0.70	...
International	365.30	384.60	-1.30	...
American	510.10	537.00	-10.40	...
Japan	174.70	183.90	-7.70	...
European	488.10	513.80	-5.00	...
Pacific	285.90	300.90	+7.60	...
Technology	664.30	699.30	-15.10	...
Prpn Bd/Crncy	247.20	260.20	+0.90	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	271.50	285.80	-0.20	...
UK Equity	644.50	678.50	+1.30	...
American	441.80	465.20	-8.00	...
Pacific	284.90	300.00	-8.30	...
European	796.00	838.00	+3.80	...
Global Mgd	391.40	412.10	+2.20	...
Fixed Interest	315.00	331.70	+0.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	253.40	266.80	+0.20	...
Deposit	224.50	236.40	+0.20	...
Managed	432.20	455.10	+1.50	...
Worldwide	144.70	152.40	-0.20	...
Pen Worldwide	157.70	166.10	-0.20	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2582.40	2662.30	...	...
Safety Fund	319.40	336.20	+0.30	...
Growth Fund	356.40	375.20	-1.20	...
Opportunity Fd	366.10	385.40	-1.50	...
Cash Fund	199.20	209.70	+0.10	...
European Fund	625.60	658.60	-3.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	274.40	288.90	+0.70	...
Index-Linked Fd	231.20	243.40	+0.90	...
International Fd	369.90	389.40	-1.70	.
North American	453.20	477.10	-6.50	...
Property Fund	139.20	146.60	...	...
UK Equity	431.00	453.70	-1.00	.
UK Smaller	355.30	374.10	-1.30	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	410.90	432.70	+0.10	...
Equity	485.00	510.60	-1.10	...
International	361.90	381.10	-1.60	...
Property	274.40	289.00	+0.10	...
Fixed Interest	330.60	348.10	+1.60	...
Index Linked	233.20	245.60	+0.60	...
Cash	211.60	222.80	-0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1216.20	1293.90	...	...
Cash Fund	386.40	407.20	+0.60	...
Property Fund	355.30	374.40	...	...
Equity Fund	1223.40	1301.50	-1.90	...
Fxd Interest Fund	647.30	682.10	+2.10	...
International	511.90	544.60	-2.00	...
High Income	1235.40	1314.30	+0.10	...
Far East	458.80	488.10	+8.00	...
North American	979.00	1041.50	-20.40	...
Special Sits	1094.80	1164.70	-10.50	...
Technology	1196.90	1273.40	-27.40	...
Extra Income Fd	667.40	710.10	+2.30	...
Gilt Fund	564.00	600.00	-0.80	...
European	261.40	278.10	-0.10	...
Adventurous Mg	292.40	308.20	-0.80	...
Secure Mgd	211.10	222.50	-0.50	...
Equity Inc Dist	173.30	182.70	+0.20	4.17
Managed Dist	143.40	151.20	+0.10	4.63
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	516.60	549.60	+1.60	...
North America	608.20	647.10	-2.10	...
Far East Fund	443.80	472.20	+2.20	...
Global Managed	668.90	711.70	+2.80	...
Deposit Fund	260.50	274.30	+0.30	...
Prime Residential	149.50	157.40	...	...
European Fund	481.00	511.80	+6.80	...
Fixed Interest	64.50	68.60	+0.20	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1596.40	1596.40	+2.50	3.36
Inv Pol 2	1438.60	1514.50	+2.40	...
Inv Pol 3	1352.00	1423.20	+2.10	...
Inv Cash	362.70	381.80	+0.30	...
Mixed Fund	678.80	714.60	+5.40	...
Equity Fund	922.50	971.20	+8.20	...
Property Fund	316.50	333.20	+0.20	...
International Fd	622.60	655.40	+6.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	499.20	525.60	+3.60	..
Indexed Stock Fd	253.30	266.70	+2.00	...
Cash Fund	263.80	277.70	+0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	589.70	620.70	+2.90	...
Equity Acc	817.00	860.00	+1.90	...
International Acc	425.50	447.80	+8.40	...
Property	269.40	283.50	-0.30	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552				
Cash	308.70	325.00	+0.30	...
Equity	1826.10	1922.30	+4.70	...
European	263.00	276.90	+0.20	...
Far East	141.90	149.40	-3.80	...
Fixed Interest	527.30	555.10	+1.60	...
Index Linked	269.80	284.00	+0.50	...
International	759.80	799.80	+0.20	...
Managed	1076.00	1132.70	+2.30	...
Nth American	251.30	264.60	-6.10	...
Property	441.90	465.20	+1.40	.
Pensions				
Cash	502.20	528.70	+0.50	...
Equity	2932.20	3086.60	+5.10	...
European	365.60	384.90	-0.90	...
Far East	106.80	112.50	+2.60	...
Fixed Interest	780.60	821.70	+3.30	...
Index Linked	393.90	414.70	+1.20	...
International	1147.80	1208.30	-1.30	...
Managed	1652.30	1739.30	+2.20	...
Nth American	358.10	377.00	-10.80	...
Property	673.10	708.60	+0.80	...
Stock Exchange	369.00	388.50	-0.10	...
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	1117.20	1176.00	-0.20	...
Equity Fund	1622.20	1707.60	-3.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	544.40	573.10	+1.20	...
Index-Linked Fd	416.90	438.80	+0.80	...
Property Fund	595.90	627.30	+0.60	.
International Fd	1032.90	1087.30	+4.40	...
N American Fd	525.40	553.50	-9.60	...
Far East Fund	203.30	214.00	+2.70	...
Deposit Fund	347.00	365.30	-0.20	...
Intnl Bd ‡	£140.60	...	+10.00	...
Worldwide Bond	170.00	178.90	+1.00	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	337.40	355.20	+2.10	.
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	1133.60	1193.30	+0.30	..
Ebor Phoenix Eq	685.00	732.60		..
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	702.00	...	+0.80	...
-do- Acc ‡	646.90	...	+0.70	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	956.20	...	+0.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	908.40	...	+0.80	...
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	515.90	...	+0.60	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	539.00	...	+0.60	...
Investment Fd ‡	602.30	...	+0.10	...
Investment (A) ‡	575.10	...	+0.10	
Equity ‡	2399.40	...	-4.60	...
Equity Acc ‡	2279.10	...	-4.60	...
Money Fund ‡	562.20	...	+0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	533.30	...	+0.30	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	993.80	...	+0.40	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	513.40	...	+1.10	
-do- Acc ‡	513.40	...	-1.10	...
Retire Annuity ‡	1516.00	..	+1.70	...
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...		
Bldg Soc Life ‡	261.90	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	2534.00	...	-5.70	
Managed Acc ‡	1320.00	...	+19.90	
Equity Account ‡	2158.20	...	-41.60	
Mngd Fund Acc	596.90	628.40	+4.40	
Equity Fund Acc	925.80	974.50	+18.60	.
Prop Fund Acc	333.20	350.70	...	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	424.30	446.60	+2.10	..
Money Fund Acc	253.00	266.30	+0.20	..
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	257.30	270.80	+1.60	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	3104.60	...	-81.90	..
Pens Mngd Acct	1442.50	1518.40	+39.90	..
Pens Guarantee	330.90	348.30	+0.60	..
Pens Equity	626.40	659.40	+17.10	..
Pens Property	386.00	406.30	+0.60	..
Pens Fixed Int	427.80	450.30	+5.40	..
Pens Intl	345.20	363.40	-13.00	..
Pens Money	283.10	298.00	+0.40	..
Pens Indx-Lnkd	260.70	274.40	+4.40	..
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1335.40	1405.70	+2.70	..
Property Acc	489.80	515.60	+1.40	..
Equity Acc	2520.60	2653.30	+4.90	..
Fixed Int Acc	542.50	571.10	+1.90	..
Cash Acc	358.10	377.00	-0.30	..
Amer Equity Acc	690.20	726.60	-14.80	..
Japan Acc	184.30	194.10	+5.90	..
Pacific Acc	289.40	304.70	+4.40	..
Far Eastern Acc	620.80	653.50	+19.60	..
International Acc	749.10	788.60	+0.70	...
Distribution Fund	378.70	398.70	+1.40	4.88
European	332.70	350.20	+0.20	...
Defrd Dist	257.30	270.90	+0.20	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	428.40	451.00	+0.60	..
Property Fund	254.90	268.40	+0.40	..
Fixed Interest Fd	289.30	304.70	+0.90	..
Money Fund	231.00	243.30	+0.20	..
Equity Fund	588.30	619.40	+0.80	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	1066.00	1122.10	+0.60	..
Money Fund	365.50	384.70	+0.30	..
Equity Fund	1056.40	1112.00	+1.80	..
Fixed Interest	368.50	387.80	-0.70	..
Property Fund	460.60	484.80	+0.10	..
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	884.40	930.90	-17.10	
Income	1219.80	1284.00	-2.10	
International Gth	853.60	898.50	-1.70	..
Capital Fund	916.90	965.10	+1.50	..
Recovery Fund	623.30	656.10	-1.90	..
Japan & General	177.10	186.40	+4.60	..
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	20.81	21.90	+0.01	..
Bear	30.39	31.98	-0.08	
Owl	34.01	35.80	+0.05	
Bull	27.23	28.66	+0.01	
Stag	26.22	27.59	-0.08	..
Gilt Edged	24.29	25.56	-0.05	..
Deposit	17.92	18.86	+0.02	..
Pensions				
Squirrel	29.57	31.12	+0.03	..
Bear	46.17	48.60	-0.13	...
Owl	51.02	53.70	+0.06	..
Bull	38.40	40.42	-0.01	..
Stag	36.69	38.62	-0.19	...
Gilt Edged	33.02	34.75	-0.08	..
Deposit	24.22	25.49	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund ‡		904.32	+0.48	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	586.62	617.49	+1.00	...
N Amer Equity	472.53	497.40	-9.16	...
Far East Equity	303.78	319.76	+4.05	..
Fixed	389.16	409.64	-0.68	..
Cash Deposit	235.94	248.35	+0.20	..
Property	196.26	206.58	+0.05	..
Special Opp	509.06	535.85	-1.53	..
Managed	474.25	499.21	+0.24	..
Index-Linked Fd	235.87	248.28	-0.09	
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	885.60	932.20	+0.50	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	486.70	512.30	+0.90	...
Life Equity Acc	1394.00	1467.30	+2.40	...
Life Money Acc	343.50	361.50	+0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	1165.40	1226.70	+0.60	...
Life Intl Acc	603.30	635.00	-1.20	...
Life High Inc Acc	1395.90	1469.30	-4.30	
Life Property Acc	308.60	324.80	...	...

Invest On-line is a trading name of Royal & Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Limited, registered in England with No. 2170242, a member of the Royal & Sun Alliance Life & Pensions Marketing Group. The registered office is 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB. Members of the Royal & Sun Alliance Marketing Group are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, solely for life assurance, pension and unit trust business, and by IMRO. For your security all calls are recorded. The value of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up. The current tax position may change in the future. FTSE® is a joint trade mark of the London Stock Exchange Limited and the Financial Times Limited and are used by FTSE International Limited under licence. The FTSE All-Share is calculated by FTSE International Limited in conjunction with the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries. FTSE International Limited does not sponsor, endorse or promote this product. All copyright in the index value and constituent list vests in FTSE International Limited. Royal & Sun Alliance has obtained full licence from FTSE International Limited to use such copyright in the creation of this product.

The lowest Tracker PEP charges in the UK

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE

Don't miss this opportunity to maximise your last ever PEP allowance.

Talk to Invest On-line, the direct investment centre of Royal & SunAlliance. Our UK Tracker PEP offers the best value in the All-Share Tracker PEP market for a minimum lump sum investment of £6,000.

The annual management fee is an unbeatable 0.3% with no initial or exit charges (bid/offer spread 0.8%).

But to secure this low rate, PEP applications must be received by 30th April 1998 for the 1998/99 tax year.

Call free now, visit our website at www.invest-on-line.co.uk or complete the coupon below for full details.

INVEST ON-LINE

TALK TO US ABOUT PEPS FREE ON

0500 100 333

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM

FAX NO: 0118 934 8212 E MAIL: invest@rsaonline.co.uk

Invest On-line, FREEPOST 3479, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9ZZ.

CODE: BDP

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms..... Forename.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

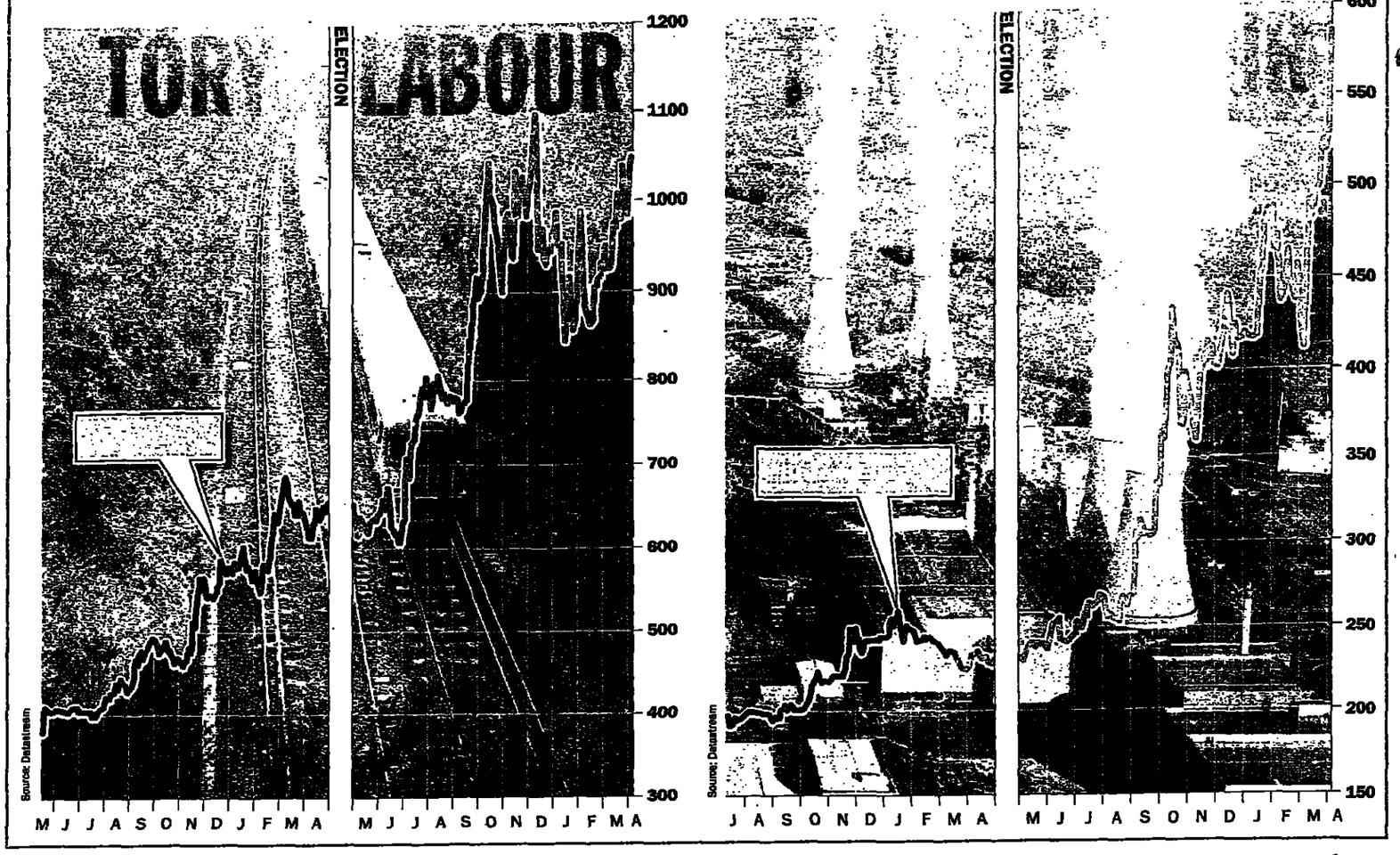
..... Postcode .....

Tel(daytime).....

(home)..... Date of birth...../...../.....

☐ £6,000 lump sum ☐ Lump sum less than £6,000 ☐ Regular investments

HOW THE FINAL CONSERVATIVE PRIVATISATION HAS FARED UNDER NEW LABOUR



Sell-off risks justified by rewards

Patrick Collinson reckons the controversy over the last two privatisations has helped investors

More than a million small investors who bought into the final two privatisations of the Conservative Government are sitting on gains of nearly 200 per cent as fears of a Labour purge on privatised stocks have evaporated.

The phenomenal rise in Railtrack and British Energy's share prices has caused concern that the assets were sold off too cheaply. A National Audit Office report due out next month is expected to criticise the sell-off price of British Energy, saying that more money could have been raised for taxpayers if the Government had retained a stake in the business.

Shares in the companies privatised by the Conservatives have soared since Labour's landslide victory in the election on May 1, helped by the continued buoyancy of the stock market and a softer than expected stance on regulation and windfall taxes by the new Government.

The last two privatisations, under the previous John Major government, Railtrack and British Energy, were among the most controversial of all the sell-offs since privatisations began.

The flotation prospectus for Railtrack, published in May 1996, spelt out a warning from Clare Short, who was then Labour's transport spokesman. She said that a future Labour Government would "reconstitute British Rail as a fully publicly owned, publicly accountable company". Potential investors in the flotation of British Energy in July 1996 were warned also that a Labour Government would introduce tighter regulation which could affect future profits.

The warnings failed to deter the 650,000 investors who applied for Railtrack shares and 660,000 who applied for British Energy, making both issues oversubscribed. More than half have since sold their shares, but for those who have held on, the rewards have been spectacular.

Railtrack came to the stock market at 380p, and this week was trading around the £10.95 level, a gain of 188 per cent in only 23 months. The typical Railtrack small shareholder obtained a parcel of 510 shares, costing £1,938 at issue but worth £5,584 today before dealing costs.

Small shareholders in British Energy were invited to subscribe for part-paid shares at 100p, with a second instalment of 98p a year later. Last week the shares were trading at around 585p, making the nuclear power generator the top-performing FTSE 100 stock over the past year. Shareholders in the retail offer typically received about 400 shares on flotation at a fully paid-up price of 198p, costing £792, but worth about £2,340 just 21 months later.

So why were the shares sold off on the cheap? Alan Durrant, head of UK equities at Hargreaves Lansdown, the share shop that was heavily involved in the flotation of both stocks, said the shares had to be priced low to overcome fears of potential action by a future Labour Government. He said: "The Labour Party's rhetoric at the time was largely responsible for the companies being sold off so cheaply. They had to be priced at a hefty discount to reflect the worry and political risk inherent in the shares."

Neither Railtrack nor British Energy offered much in the way of "stagging" gains for investors who bought into the offer and sold on the first day of dealing. Two weeks after the British Energy flotation the 100p part-paid shares were trading at 97½p, hit by news of two reactors that had to be closed down for investigation.

But Mr Durrant has been a fan of both since launch, for the same reasons that have driven most privatisation stocks upwards. He said: "The past experience of privatisations is that you can double or treble future profits. Once the knife is taken to the company, costs simply fall away. We saw that happening with Railtrack in particular. Here you had a company which could grow earnings by 25 per cent per year for three years.

"Understandably, there was some political risk, but in Railtrack you had a fundamentally fantastic business, which has almost had to understate just how well it is doing to avoid announcing almost embarrassingly good figures."

Before the election, some small shareholders piled into cash in fear of the impact that a Labour Government might have on the stock market, but they piled back in once their worst fears failed to materialise. Mark Howard, managing director of Maddison Monetary Management, the independent financial adviser, said: "We saw people who wanted to go into cash before the election, but they went back into the market once they saw the City's reaction. Most of them were out of the market for only a short time."

Institutional investors' enthusiasm for privatisation stocks has dimmed only once since Tony Blair came to power. One month after taking up office John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, criticised Railtrack's first set of profit figures and threatened tougher regulation. The share price immediately plunged, but recovered rapidly.

Institutional investors — largely UK pension funds — have played a large part in driving up the price of Railtrack and British Energy shares, hoovering up shares as small investors have sold their holdings. Flemings, Threadneedle, Standard Life and Barclays have been big buyers of Railtrack, which is now 70 per cent owned by institutional investors compared with 40 per cent at launch.

Mercury Asset Management, Templeton and Schroders are now the biggest shareholders in British Energy, which is now 80 per cent held by institutions. The lesson for small investors is that holding on to privatisation stocks rather than selling for short-term gains has proved the most lucrative policy.

SUPER!
UP TO 35% MORE FOR MY OLD ENDOWMENT
If your 'with profits' policy is over 7 years old with a surrender value over £2,000, call now with the details, or see Teletext pages 541/2.
0845 20 20 200 (local rates) Lines always open.
Policy£Plus
DON'T SETTLE FOR LESS
PolicyPlus International Plc, 2-4 Henry Street, Bath, BA1 1JT
E-mail: mail@policyplus.com Fax: 01225 466555 http://www.policyplus.com
Member of the APIMM and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. If in doubt ask your IFA.

Britannia

"FEW INVESTMENT MANAGERS GET CL... TO BRITANNIA'S LONG-TERM RECORD"
SUNDAY TIMES, 1st June 1997

A glance at the table will tell you w... Britannia Fund Managers' performanc... caught the eye of the SUNDAY TIMES."

Had you invested £1,000 in our Man... Portfolio Fund at launch in 1991, today it would be worth £2,784.49. This not only ... all runners – but also any funds that woul... have been tracking the FTSE 100 index over... that time.

For further details about this fully PEPable fund, fill in the coupon, call the number below or speak to your financial adviser.

Fund Manager	% Growth p.a. since 1/3/91	Ranking
Britannia Managed Portfolio		
Portfolio Fund of Funds	15.21%	2
Fidelity MoneyBuilder Plus	15.20%	3
Morgan Grenfell Managed	14.73%	4
Royal Life Managed	14.72%	5
FTSE 100	13.73%	

*Source: Micropal offer-bid, net income reinvested. Average annual percentage growth from 1/3/91 -1/4/98.

For investment performance with stamina, call

INVESTOR SUPPORT DESK
Britannia Fund Managers Limited

(calls charged at local rate)

0845

It was confirmed in the March 1998 budget that PEPs will no longer be available to new investors after April 5 1999. However, existing PEPs may continue to be held under the current rules and with the same tax advantages as the new Individual Savings Account. Telephone calls may be taped. Five year performance Britannia Managed Portfolio – five year cash sum £1,872.19; Britannia Managed Portfolio 15.26%, Portfolio Fund of Funds 15.27%; Fidelity MoneyBuilder Plus 15.09%; Morgan Grenfell Managed 14.44%, Royal Life Managed 13.44%; FTSE 100 15.56%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of units can go down as well as up. Britannia Fund Managers Limited, Registered in Scotland No.85610 – Unit Trust Management Company Registered Office: Britannia Court, 50 Bothwell St., Glasgow G2 6HR. The Britannia Marketing Group also includes the following subsidiary company which is registered in Scotland, Britannia Investment Managers Limited.* Reg No. 101825 – Portfolio Management Company. Ultimate holding body – Britannia Building Society. Regulated by the *Personal Investment Authority and Regulated by IMRO. Part of the Britannia group of companies.

Britannia Fund Managers Limited, Britannia Court, 50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR
Please send me more details on Britannia's Managed Portfolio Fund
Title Initials Surname
Address
Postcode Tmx 11/4/98

INSTANT ACCESS WITH 6.45% GROSS P.A.



- Instant access with a cheque book
- A compounded gross annual rate of 6.64%
- Minimum balance of £5,000
- No minimum cheque withdrawal or deposit

For more information please call our 24-hour answerphone on 0171-203-1650 or call one of our Account Managers on 0171-203-1550 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.
Alternatively complete the coupon and FREEPOST it to us.
For your security, telephone calls to Investec Bank (UK) Limited may be recorded.

INVESTEC
INVESTEC BANK (UK) LIMITED

To: Investec Bank (UK) Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4RN
Please send me details of the Premier High Interest Cheque Account (HICA 5000).
Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Investec Bank (UK) Limited, Cannon Bridge, 25 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2AT.
E Mail address: ride@investecbank.com
2711066

هذا من الأصل

Helen Pridham reports on fears of a new mis-selling scandal

YOU AND YOUR PENSION

Will PIA act over annuity sales charges?

Although more pensioners retiring today have some income from an occupational pension, the amount involved can be quite small. About a quarter of all occupational pensions currently in payment are under £20 a week. Few people are members of a pension scheme long enough to build up *maximum benefits.*

It usually makes sense for employees to consider topping up their pension with additional voluntary contributions (ACVCs), especially if they are contemplating early retirement. All employers' pension schemes must offer AVC facilities.

Alternatively employees can also choose to go outside their own company and take out a free-standing AVC (FCAVC). However, controversy has arisen recently over sales of FSAVCs after Geoff Pearson, pensions manager for J Sainsbury, the supermarket giant, accused some salesmen of deliberately mis-selling them to employees.

He said: "Charges are generally much higher on FSAVCs than AVCs, which means they usually offer poorer value. Some salesmen are clearly not providing employees with enough information about AVCs to enable them to make an informed decision. They are more interested in earning commission on the sale of an FSAVC."

When Mr Pearson asked an audience of pension managers recently whether they shared his concerns, "a sea of hands went up". He has now written to the Personal Investment Authority, the industry watchdog, asking it to look into the matter. He said: "It is not on the same scale as the personal pension mis-selling scandal. Nobody is losing out on their main pension scheme benefits. But if they are getting a poorer deal, I think the PIA should act now to nip it in the bud."

Among others who have also expressed doubts are Jenny Rosser of the British Airways pension scheme, who has contacted Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, about the matter. A survey of pension scheme managers by Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary, found that about a quarter believed mis-selling of FSAVCs was taking place.

FSAVCs are big business for insurance companies. According to the Association of British Insurers, sales are increasing and premiums last year totalled £775 million. By comparison, Watson Wyatt, the actuary, estimates the amount paid into AVCs is about £1 billion. Insurers are also the main providers of AVCs.

Employees can contribute up to 15 per cent of their pay to an AVC or FSAVC, less any contribution they are already making to their main scheme. The tax relief given on these extra savings makes them very attractive compared with other forms of investment for retirement.

Sarah Modlock, a spokeswoman for the PIA, argued that the suspicions of pension scheme managers are unjustified. She said: "We already monitor sales of FSAVCs and we have found nothing to indicate systematic mis-selling. Sales guidelines for FSAVCs were issued in 1996 and we have no reason to believe they are not adhered to."

However, there are considerable differences in the PIA guidelines for independent financial advisers who sell FSAVCs and for direct salesmen. IFAs must find out details of an employee's AVC and every time one of their members takes out an FSAVC. If they are so concerned, why don't they draw the attention of employees to the in-house AVC?"

Take-up of AVC schemes has always been notoriously low. According to the latest annual survey of the National Association of Pension Funds, only 15.9 per cent of employees in private sector companies pay AVCs. In the public sector it is even lower, at 7.3 per cent.

Neil Crighton, senior manager at Equitable Life, the largest provider of AVCs, agrees that employers do not highlight the facility enough. He said "We offer posters and leaflets but we cannot force them to promote AVCs."

In fact, employers are limited in what they can do. Mr Pearson at Sainsbury's said: "We are not allowed to give specific advice to employees. We cannot actually tell them that our AVCs are better than a particular FSAVC plan."

Iain Oliver, pensions development manager at Commercial Union, which provides both FSAVCs and AVCs, believes this is where the most serious issue arises. He said: "I would challenge the view that AVCs are always better than FSAVCs. I believe pension scheme administrators should be obliged to provide employees with independent advice so they receive proper guidance."

What makes AVCs the best option in most cases is that they are cheaper. There is often no initial charge and annual charges are lower, especially if you work for a large employer. If you stop contributions you won't normally be penalised.



Watchdog: will it leap into action?

However, Andy Parker of Watson Wyatt said: "Some employers do still have old, outdated AVC contracts in place with less favourable charging structures. There are in-house AVC plans that are considerably more expensive than many FSAVCs. However, the Pensions Act now requires trustees to review their AVC scheme so they are likely to improve soon."

Arguments in favour of FSAVCs are less convincing. The majority of contracts deduct an initial charge of 5 per cent from every contribution. Higher charges are required to pay for the commission that is given to the salesman. The amount of commission depends on the likely term of the contract. For an FSAVC taken out by a 40-year-old, commission can be up to 74 per cent of the first year's premiums, for a 55-year-old it could be up to 36 per cent.

Although FSAVCs are portable, if you change to self-employment converting your plan to a personal pension may not be so easy. More seriously if you have to stop your contributions in the early years, the deductions to cover the cost of commission can reduce the value of your savings significantly.

Andy Cox of Bacon & Woodrow said: "Another argument often used in favour of FSAVCs is privacy. Savers are told it will enable them to save for early retirement without their employer knowing. It is absolute rubbish that any employer would hold this against an employee.

"I believe the only legitimate reason for taking out an FSAVC is to access other investments. There are some employers who still only offer a building society AVC. Younger members who want to invest in the stock market would be justified in taking out an FSAVC."

carry out a detailed comparison. Direct salesmen must only mention the generic differences between AVCs and FSAVCs.

Allied Dunbar is one of the leading providers of FSAVCs through its direct salesforce. Tony Reardon, pensions director, said: "We would take any mis-selling seriously but we don't believe it is a problem. We go to considerable lengths to explain the differences between AVCs and FSAVCs. We mention that AVCs may have reduced charges but we also spell out the positive aspects of FSAVCs such as the fact they can be continued when an employee changes jobs."

He added: "Pension scheme managers are just not doing enough to promote their own AVCs. We have to tell them

The Index-Tracking PEP

The All-Share Tracking PEP that has performed the best

INVEST NOW
to make the most of your final year's PEP allowance

Since its launch over two years ago this Index-Tracking PEP from Legal & General has proved that it offers PEP investors superb performance and value.

It follows the FTSE All-Share Index. This Index reflects the performance of the entire stockmarket, so it reduces the risk of being over-exposed to shares which under-perform and lessen your return. In fact, a lump sum of £6,000 invested in this PEP at launch would now be worth £10,462* compared to just £9,648* in the average UK Income & Growth Trust.

With no initial charges deducted, more of your money is invested at the outset for maximum growth potential, there are no withdrawal fees and with an annual management charge of 0.5% – the value for money is outstanding. So make the most of today's opportunities. For further details (including information on our monthly saving option) call now.

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH* NOV 95 TO APRIL 98		
PROVIDER	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE	GROWTH
Legal & General	0.50%	74.38%
Dresdner RCM	0.50%	72.87%
Gartmore	1.00%	72.79%
Virgin	1.00%	72.68%
Average UK Income & Growth Trust	–	60.81%

***NO** initial charges*
***NO** withdrawal fee*
***0.5%** annual management charge*

Visit our web site at www.LandG.com

Find out more now – phone free

0500 11 66 22

8am to 8pm weekdays. 9am to 5pm weekends.

For your protection, calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored

Please quote ref: C4DL27

YES I would like more information about the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP. Post to: Legal & General (Direct) Limited, FREEPOST SWC0467, Cardiff CF1 1YW. If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐. We may telephone you to make sure information requested has arrived safely. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here ☐.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) *Forename(s)* C4DL27

Address

Postcode

Date of birth / /

Tel. No. Home

Tel. No. Work

Legal & General

Source: Micropal IA/IM, on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP charges with gross income re-invested from 01.11.95 (Legal & General since launch) to 09.04.98. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. From 06.04.99 tax credits on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a reduced rate of 10%. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All comparisons of cost apply to PEPs investing wholly in unit trusts. Full written details are available on request. All statements are correct as at 06.04.98. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new tax privileged savings vehicle, the Individual Savings Account (ISA) will be available. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered in England No. 2703480. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP. Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

SIMPLY THE BEST

PEP discounts in the UK



- We are a **DISCOUNT BROKER** which means we rebate to investors the commissions of up to 5% charged when you buy direct or through conventional brokers. **Our normal £25 handling fee will be waived up to 5th April 1999.**
- We are **INDEPENDENT**, so we offer a huge range of investment options from all the UK's leading investment companies.
- We are **HIGHLY EXPERIENCED** – Elson Associates has been established since 1987 and over 40,000 clients come to us to arrange their PEPS.
- We offer **PERSONAL SERVICE** in a way that continues to reflect our family-founded origins.
- We aim to offer the **HIGHEST PEP DISCOUNTS IN THE UK.** As volume dealers in PEPs, we are able to negotiate the very best terms for our clients.

Don't miss the boat!

Last year for new PEP investments. Make the most of this final opportunity to invest up to £9,000 before 5th April 1999.

Opening a new PEP?
Unhappy with the performance of your existing PEP?
Looking for reduced charges?

For further information, cut out and return the coupon below to Elson Associates, FREEPOST DT1138, 18 Maxwell Road, Welling, Kent DA16 1BR or alternatively call us free on

☎ 0500 691790 ☎

www.elson.iii.co.uk

ELSON ASSOCIATES

Regulated By The PIA Personal • Investment • Authority

Name .....

Address ..... Postcode.....

.....

I am particularly interested in a ..... (company) PEP.

Please send me the relevant application form together with the discount information

The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs will depend on your individual circumstances. We do not offer advice as to the suitability of the investments you buy through us. If you have any doubt whether an investment is suitable for you, you should obtain expert advice. Following the Chancellor's Budget announcement on 17th March 1998, assuming the proposals are passed into law as announced, subscriptions into PEPs cannot be made when Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) are introduced on 6 April 1999. Existing PEP holders will, however, be able to keep their accumulated savings free of income and capital gains tax and may choose to change PEP manager at any time. The tax reliefs for PEPs will mirror the tax reliefs for ISAs.

GUINNESS FLIGHT

GUINNESS FLIGHT UK EQUITY INCOME PEP

No.1 UK Equity Income Trust since PEPs began...

Since PEPs began on 1st January 1987 the Guinness Flight UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust has returned 621% to investors, or an annualised 19.21%. Over this long period it is the best performing Trust in the UK Equity Income Sector*. With the Budget having announced that PEPs will continue to offer tax free returns in the future, now is the time to make use of your PEP allowances. The UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust is available as a PEP within the Guinness Flight Selector PEP with its further 11 attractive options. Call now to receive details of a PEP with a great past and, we believe, a very promising future.

Guinness Flight UK Equity Income Portfolio Trust Performance*

1 year		5 years		Since PEPs began (1.1.87)	
Return	Decile	Return	Decile	Return	Rank
34.82%	1st	149.82%	1st	621.59%	1st

Low 2% initial charge, no exit fee, no switch charge

GUINNESS FLIGHT
INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

Call 0345 564 564

or simply complete the coupon and return to "FREEPOST GUINNESS FLIGHT" (no stamp or further address details needed).
Please send me details of the Guinness Flight Selector PEP.

Title Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal, dates to 01.04.98, offer to bid, gross income reinvested. Rankings in UK Equity Income Sector. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. Please note that the Government intends to replace PEPs with "ISAs" in April 1999. All PEPs held at 5 April 1999 will continue to be held as PEPs outside an ISA. For your protection, telephone calls may be recorded. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by IMRO. 3785/98



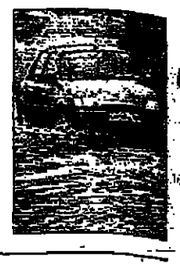
GLOBAL VISIONS 50

Graham Searjeant on the urge for mega-mergers

WEEKEND MONEY

FLOOD ALERT 51

When April showers soak more than your garden



RAGNAR SIGURDSSON



If you want to keep your head above water, you may find it better to retire before annuity rates fall further than to try to save for a bigger pension

Stay afloat in old age

Marianne Curphey reports on a dilemma for annuity-buyers

People who have postponed retirement to build up as big a pension fund as possible may actually be worse off because annuity rates — which govern their annual pension income — are falling at an alarming pace.

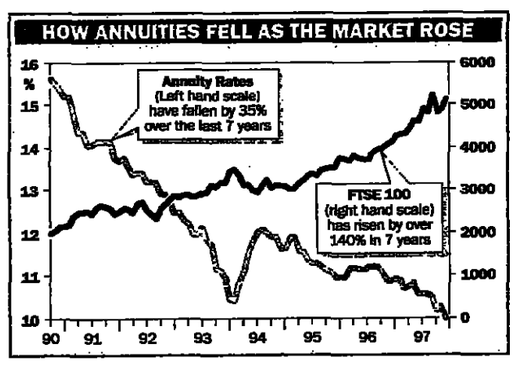
Instead of benefiting from financial prudence, people in their late 50s and early 60s who have continued in work for the past seven years may actually have impoverished themselves because annuity rates fell by 35 per cent over that period.

For many people in personal pension and money purchase employers' schemes the income they can expect each year for the rest of their life has dropped significantly and there is no sign of a short-term improvement.

Many people close to retirement have continued in work for as long as possible to increase the pension fund from which an insurance company will pay them an annual income for life. The level of income depends both on the value of the fund and the prevailing annuity rate. Rates have been dropping so fast, however, that delaying the purchase of an annuity by just one year could have knocked 10 per cent off your annual income, according to advisers.

Unfortunately, both financial advisers and economists are unable to predict much good news. Many people who were thinking of retiring decided to delay buying an annuity in the early 1990s in the hope that rates would start to pick up and they would have a bigger fund from which to draw an annual income. But the reverse has happened, according to William Bullock, chairman of Chantrey Financial Services, who says that rates have fallen so far that a pension fund would have had to grow by 10 per cent over the past 12 months just to provide the same annual income as an annuity purchased at the beginning of 1997.

HOW ANNUITIES FELL AS THE MARKET ROSE



So what has caused the horrific fall? Annuity rates are linked to long-term gilt yields and gilts yields tend to fall as the stock market rises. The long-term gilt yield at January 1997 was 7.7 per cent but has now dropped to 5.96 per cent. The bank base rate, meanwhile, has gone up from 6 per cent to 7.25 per cent and short-term interest rates have risen accordingly. The normal law of economics would mean that this in turn would mean that the long-term gilt yield would also rise but because of special circumstances this is not happening.

Some specialist annuity brokers are putting a brave face on a gloomy situation. Billy Burrows, of William Burrows Annuities, argues that falling annuity rates are not necessarily bad news for people saving for their retirement, because strong stock market growth swells the value of shares held in their pension plan.

He said: "You may be no worse off despite falling annuity rates because the value of your pension is rising faster than annuity rates are dropping."

However, Mr Bullock is not convinced by this argument. While the FTSE 100 index rose 23 per cent over the last year, this massive growth was not necessarily enjoyed by managed pension funds.

He said: "On a fund of £10,000, at the average annuity rate last year you would have got an annual income of £1,100. Annuity rates have dropped so fast over the past year that you would now receive only £990 per year from the same £10,000 fund. Most people on the brink of retirement will not now be holding the sort of investments that produce such large returns because their advisers will have urged them to switch into something less volatile than equities.

"Most people, therefore, would have been advised to switch into with-profit funds or fixed-interest and cash funds. So while the stock market has risen strongly over the past year, Standard Life's with-profit fund has grown annually by just 4 per cent."

The dilemma facing those who are currently contemplating retirement is whether to buy an annuity now, while rates are historically low, or wait for things to improve.

Financial advisers say if you can wait for five years you may see some rise in the annuity rates, but your fund may not have grown sufficiently in the interval.

Mr Bullock said: "There are two problems facing people who are trying to decide whether to buy now. The advent of the single currency means that one of the criteria the UK needs to meet to join up is the convergence of interest rates with the rest of Europe, and particularly Germany.

"Germany is 120 base points or 1.2 per cent below our ten-year long-term gilt yield of 5.9 per cent. If we are going to join the European currency then our UK long-term gilt yield is going to have to come down to about 4.5 per cent. So over the next five years if the UK is going to join EMU, annuity rates will continue to fall."

However, there are those who believe that the chances of the UK joining up are lessening by the day. If you believe them, Mr Bullock says, then you can be more bullish about annuity rates.

"If we do not join EMU, then we could see gilt yields jump to around 7 per cent. That is the dilemma: in three years' time you could be looking either at annuity rates of 4.5 per cent, or 7 per cent. Unfortunately there is no real answer and investors have to weigh up the probabilities."

Mike Wadsworth, a specialist in insurance with the actuary Watson Wyatt, said it was difficult to say how quickly yields would fall but added: "One could expect the downward drift to continue. The long-term yields are currently below 6 per cent which is historically very low. A delay in buying an annuity could prove reasonably expensive."

Justin Modray, investment adviser with Chase de Vere, said investors could consider deferring an annuity until they reached 75 if they could afford to do so.

Comment, page 51

Call for 'bench mark' checks

A report published this week by the Adam Smith Institute, the right-wing think tank, recommends scrapping the current system of regulation of financial products entirely (Caroline Merrell writes).

It suggests instead that the products themselves should be regulated through a system of benchmarking. This would involve introducing certain basic standards for the companies to adhere to. Those that did not comply with the benchmark would be unlikely to sell many products.

Benchmarking is certain to form a central part of future Government policy on all financial products, including stakeholder pensions.

According to the report: "The sale and regulation of financial packages must be radically reformed if truly cost-effective personal savings, pensions and insurance plans are to come within the grasp of all individuals and families."

The Government is committed to making more people save for their retirement. It also wants to cut back on the annual £90 billion welfare bill by encouraging people to make private provisions.

The report, *Simply Secure*, also recommends the Government's pensions and savings proposals should be merged and added to a new basic insurance account, which would pay out if misfortune struck.

INSIDE



51 Marianne Curphey on falling annuity rates

BUSINESS

49 Competition can cut your gas bill



TAXATION



53 Why tax changes are good news for investors

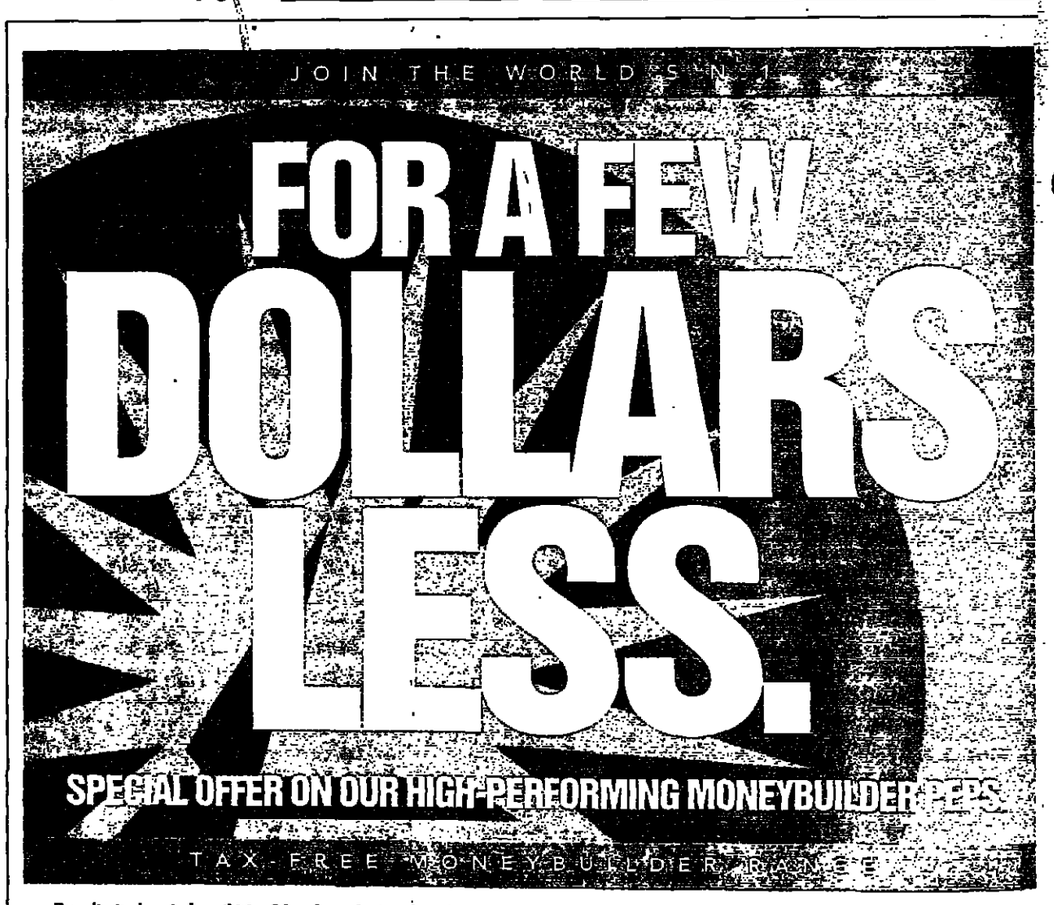
INVESTMENT



54 Which stocks are driving the FTSE?

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 26-29

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth



For a limited period until May 29 we're reducing the minimum investment in our best-value MoneyBuilder PEPs from £3,000 to just £1,000, so you can buy a PEP now.

This allows you to take full advantage of any tax-free growth or income in the financial year ahead. And you can add to your PEP throughout the year from £100 a time.

So by next March, when most people take out their PEPs, you will not have to worry about the PEP deadline.

MoneyBuilder PEPs combine a terrific record of performance with a great reputation for value. There are no charges for buying, selling, or switching between funds in the range*.

You can even phase your investment over six months to help smooth out market volatility. And of course your money's available any time. Add this to the stockpickin' good performance that got us voted Best Unit Trust Group 1997 by Micropal and you'll see why you should phone, send off the coupon or speak to your IFA now.

And find out about the PEPs that are going great guns.

PEP/ISA HOTLINE 9AM TO 6PM, 7 DAYS
0800 41 41 33
www.fidelity.co.u

To: Fidelity Investments, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9DZ. Phon
0800 41 41 33. Please send me information on Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Ran
We will not disclose any information outside the Fidelity Marketing Grou

Name

Address

Postcode Tel

Fidelity Investments

WHERE 12 MILLION INVESTORS PUT THEIR TRUST.

*Other than the effect of the bid-offer spread, which should not exceed 0.75%. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and income from them go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Resources and assets are as at 28/2/98, and include resources of FMR Corp, a U.S company and its affiliate eligibility to invest in a PEP or ISA will depend upon individual circumstances and all tax rules may change in the future. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will give investment advice. Issued by Fidelity Investments Ltd, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority

CM

PETER LAWSON/McLELLAN



David and Sarah-Jane Cook with Fiona, 6. They hope to save £100 a year on gas

Cooks warm to thoughts of cheaper gas supply

As the gas industry opens up for competition, consumer watchdogs have expressed concern about some of the new gas suppliers' sales tactics. But despite worries about some of the agents' behaviour, the canny householder can still make big savings on gas bills (Lizanne Rose writes).

The Cook family of Wherstead, Suffolk, are switching because they have above-average gas consumption. They have a gas-fired Aga stove which burns about £2 worth of fuel per day.

Mr Cook signed a contract with Eastern Natural Gas three weeks ago and expects to save about £100 a year. He responded to a mailshot from Eastern Natural Gas which was followed up by a visit from the gas company to discuss the contract. He said: "Switching from British Gas was motivated purely by cost. There seems no reason not to change provider if you can receive the same product for less".

Gas supply controversy, page 49

هذا من الأصل

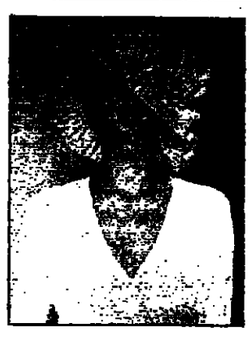
FEATURE



We must be batty: Edinburgh's icicle cricketers

PAGE 2

FASHION



Cotton on to white for summer

PAGE 5

TRAVEL



Lapps dancing at the reindeer races

PAGE 24

HOME LIFE



Common scents: what your smell says about you

PAGE 8

THE TIMES

WEEKEND

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1998

Miracle or just a false impression?

Scientists are sceptical but the Turin Shroud, which goes on show next week, still has a huge following. Richard Owen reports from Rome

> ed
> im
> os-
> ed
> m
> of
> begged the body of Jesus.
> 53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.
> 54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.

The shroud is referred to in the Gospel according to St Luke

In a cavernous church in the centre of Rome 100 people are sitting on hard chairs, riveted by the image on a screen in front of the altar and hanging on every word from an elderly white-haired surgeon, Dr Sebastiano Rodante, from Sicily.

"Look at this dried blood, these lesions," says Dr Rodante, pointing to the screen which shows the long, thin face of a bearded man imprinted on cloth. "My experiments show that they are genuine." He holds up a piece of cloth with bloodstains on it, and shows how the shapes correspond to those on the screen. "There is only one possible conclusion," the doctor says, his voice rising to a fervent crescendo. A gaunt-faced young man — looking not unlike the image before us — has been nodding vehemently beside me for some time. Now he leaps to his feet and cries: "That is the face of Jesus, our Lord! That is his blood on the Holy Shroud!" Afterwards I ask the young man if he is a seminary student training to be a priest. "Priest, not priest, what does it matter?" he replies, staring at me. "What matters is to believe."

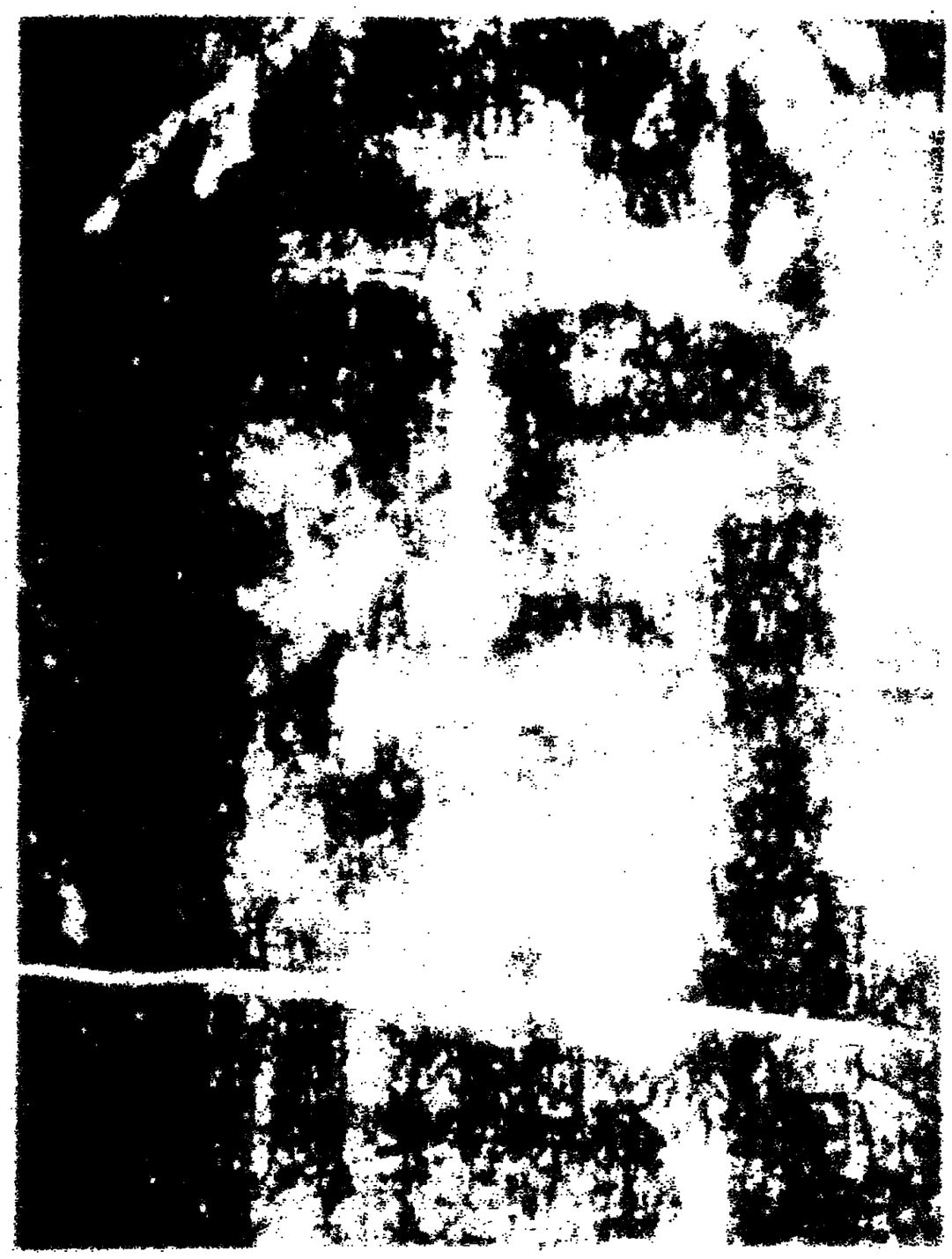
The Turin Shroud, called the *sindone* in Italian, the most controversial relic in Christendom, goes on show next Saturday for the first time since 1978. Ten years after that showing, in 1988, it was pronounced a medieval fake. Yet hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world have already made telephone bookings to see the shroud in Turin Cathedral, even though they are likely to spend at least an hour queueing and then will spend barely a minute filing past the cloth. More than three million people are expected to see the shroud before June 14 when it is folded up and put away in the casket which has been its home for more than 300 years.

For both sceptics and believers, even a one-minute glimpse of the shroud will be worth the trouble — and will fuel further fierce debate. What they will see is a length of yellowing ancient linen measuring just over 14ft by 4ft and made of fine, tightly woven herringbone twill. It bears the scorch marks of several fires, notably one at Chambéry in southeastern France in 1532.

A "Shroud of Jesus" is first recorded as the property of the family of Goffredo de Charny, a Crusader knight, from whom it

Continued on page 2

BYGMA



The Turin Shroud: scientists said it was a medieval forgery but thousands will queue to see it when it goes on show for the first time in 20 years

SHOPPING ..... 4,5 | FOOD & DRINK .... 6,7 | HOME LIFE ..... 8 | GARDENING ..... 9,10 | PROPERTY ..... 12-14 | COUNTRY LIFE . 18,19 | TRAVEL ..... 23-31 | GAMES 35,36



Magnus Linklater pads up north of the border to join one of Britain's most eccentric teams

Is googly a Scottish word?



ROGER DONOVAN

Murray McKean, founder of The Beige cricket team, negotiates an obstacle on his way to the crease in The Meadows, Edinburgh

I thought my cricketing career had come to a gentle close when I returned to live in Scotland. This, after all, is not a country which thrills to the whack of leather on willow. Football, yes; golf, certainly; rugby, curling, shinty, they are all part of the national character. Playing cricket, on the other hand, is regarded by most Scots as an aberration, something akin to Jamaica entering a bobsleigh team for the Winter Olympics.

Believing that my chances of a game north of the border were minimal, I packed away my trusty Duncan Fearnley Magnum heavy-hitter (highest score 82 n.o. *Observer* v *Sunday Times* circa 1984) and forgot about it.

That, however, was before I heard about The Beige, an Edinburgh side whose dedication to the sport is matched only by its determined eccentricity. I will come back to the name, because its blandness demands some explanation; but suffice it to say that the players manage to combine William Temple's description of cricket as "organised loafing" with a will to win which makes Allan Border seem lackadaisical. Its standards are questionable enough to have recruited me to play in the occasional match — its oldest member by about 30 years. On the other hand, the side has made impressive progress in its short life of just ten years.

Last season, after a thrilling game against one of its main rivals, the Old Contemptibles, it came top of the Davidson and Robertson East of Scotland Cricket League (Grade E) to win promotion to the coveted Grade D. This year, who knows? Asked about its principal weakness, skipper Nathan Dicks identified "sloppiness and lack of discipline". There is agreement that rather more time is spent in the team pub, Black Bo's, than on fielding practice.

P.G. Wodehouse might have had them in mind when he described a side called The Hearty Lunchers in *Reginald's Record Knock*: "They belong to the school of thought which holds that the beauty of cricket is that, above all other games, it offers such magnificent opportunities for a long drink and a smoke in the shade."

Not that shade, or indeed light, comes into it much. My first match for The Beige took place in average early season conditions for Edinburgh — light flurries of snow danced across the strip, turning occasionally to sleet. The mud at the Arthur's Seat end was definitely taking spin and the umpires called the game off only when visibility deteriorated to the point where the two batsmen just glimpsed each other as they crossed for a run. It gave me an early appreciation of the principal requirements for the sport in Scotland — at least three sweaters and a pair of longjohns.

Murray McKean, 31, founder and principal role model for The Beige, epitomises its unorthodox qualities. A nightclub promoter and publisher of a monthly magazine called *Shaver's Weekly*, which he describes as Edinburgh's only drinking fanzine, he came late to the game after joining in an impromptu cricket session at a wedding reception. Hooked from the start, he bought a bat at Woolworths and started playing with a few friends using a tennis ball, with a tree-trunk as wicket.

Later, when the side got going in earnest, the Woolworths bat was ceremonially burnt and a three-match series held with the Old Contemptibles for the local equivalent of the Ashes, known as "The Embers".

Murray's friend and flatmate, Gregor Sloss, is the self-styled "quiz and karaoke king" of the Edinburgh nightclub scene. He is also a self-taught leg-spin bowler who is having some trouble with his run-up. "It's a sort of part-skip, part-hop, part-dance," he says. "The batsmen don't know when I'm going to deliver the ball, but then neither do I."

Aly Watt, on the other hand, a middle-distance runner from Edinburgh Academy who, when I met him, wore a red Mohican hairstyle and a nose ring, is a demon fast bowler whose best figures last season were 5 for 7 and 4 for 0. He took up the game three years ago, but is so keen that he opted to turn up for net practice while his partner, who was expecting their first baby, was having contractions.

The side has undoubtedly benefited from some foreign blood. Tam Heinitz, Nathan's half-brother, comes from Barnsley and is of Polish-German descent. He scored 669 runs last season. "Lord" George Morton, an actor, is half-Scots and half-Russian and has scored a record-breaking century for The Beige. Inzaman Ul Spartak, who runs a video shop, picked up the basics of cricket by watching US baseball on satellite television in his native Armenia. Saul Linklater (number two son), 6ft 7in tall, was taught cricket at public school in England. A powerful hitter, he would like to be remembered for his forward defensive stroke — one that no one else can recall him using.

There is little agreement about why they called themselves The Beige. Some say it is because they can never keep their cricket flannels white.

As for the season ahead, Nathan Dicks is quietly confident. "We've got the skills," he confided. "Now we've got to work on turning up."

Continued from page 1

passed to the Savoy family (subsequently the Italian royal dynasty) in 1578. The cloth we see today was kept in the Guarini Chapel of Turin Cathedral for 300 years in a silver casket dating from 1694, and was venerated by the faithful.

It was only in 1898, in the age of Victorian science, that "proof" appeared: a lawyer from Asti, Secondo Pia, who was an early amateur photographer, was allowed to photograph the sacred cloth for that year's Universal Exhibition.

Pia was staggered to find that when he developed the picture, the negatives revealed the image of a man — bearded, 5ft 10in tall, with the marks of crucifixion on his hands and feet, a wound in his side, and bruises and cuts on his face and body.

Ninety years on, late 20th-century science added a new twist. After much cautious negotiation, three reputable laboratories in Oxford, Zürich and Tucson were each given a fragment of the fabric for carbon dating, with a medieval fabric and an ancient piece of cloth from the Tomb of Cleopatra at Thebes for comparison. The Oxford tests were conducted by Professor E. Hall and Professor R. Hedges and, like their Swiss and American counterparts, they concluded that it dated from between AD 1260 and 1390.

A medieval forgery, then — an image based on the familiar representations of Jesus in early Christian art, or perhaps not a conscious fake but the imprint of a Crusader crucified by the Saracens in mock imitation of Christ. For many that was the end of the story, vindicating earlier sceptics such as John Calvin, the great 16th-century Protestant reformer, who remarked after the Chambéry fire: "When one shroud burns they find another one. They say it was saved from the flames, but the paint is still fresh."

Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, the then Archbishop of Turin, announced the result of the carbon-dating analysis with obvious relief, declaring that he had "never personally believed it to be a true relic of the Passion".

But many still believe. An "International Centre of Sindonology" in Turin is devoted to disproving the fake theory. The believers, or Sindonologists, are not all wild-eyed fanatics; many are sober scientists. They doggedly insist that the fake theory does not account for many mysteries which remain, including the key question of how the image was formed.

One of the Sindonologists, Professor Nicolo Cinquemani, a neurosurgeon at San Giovanni Hospital in Rome, has concluded that the image is not unlike those caused by radiation. "There were Japanese women at Hiroshima who were left with the flower patterns of their kimonos on their skin after the nuclear explosion," he says. "As in the shroud, the light images came out light and the darker images came out dark." Radiation would have been "beyond a medieval forger".

Some scientists, such as Dmitry Kuznetsov, a Russian physicist, say the fire damage at Chambéry in 1532 could have altered its carbon composition, making it seem "younger" than it really is. The author Ian Wilson, who has spent a quarter of a century researching the shroud, claims in his new book *The Blood and the Shroud* that there are "strands of DNA" on the cloth and that the carbon-dating tests were based on a "natural microbiological coating" on the corners — in other words, the fingerprints of medieval churchmen who held it up to the faithful.

It has certainly been patched and mended over the years. In any case, medieval fakers, Sindonologists such as Dr Rodante argue, would not have had the technique or the desire to fake such meticulous details — a crude image would have been enough to fool the peasantry. And how, he asks triumphantly, could the forgers possibly have known that the invention of photography would bring the image to light six centuries later?

Thinking "good point", I followed him through a crush of admirers and fellow believers into the quiet of the vestry, where he described to me his experiments in the catacombs of Syracuse, in Sicily, the culmination of more than 50 years of devotion to "shroud studies" (he is 74).

Undeterred by local sceptics, some of whom suspected him of macabre activities among the ancient dead, Dr Rodante has set about re-creating the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, cutting it out of the rock to match the Gospel descriptions, with a humidity of 90-100 per cent and a constant temperature of 12C ("Syracuse is on the same parallel as Jerusalem, the climate is very similar").

He then took a linen cloth and sprayed it with a mixture of myrrh and aloes ("Joseph was joined by Nicodemus, who brought with him a mixture of myrrh and aloes, more than half a hundredweight" — John 19, v39).

He also concluded from the Gospels and the shroud patterns that Jesus had sweated blood in his agony, "a rare phenomenon known as haematoidrosis" and so made up a solution of "eight to ten parts sweat to one part blood".

Unable to use a corpse, whatever the locals might suspect, Dr Rodante wrapped the cloth impregnated with the spice mixture and the "bloody sweat" round a plastercast of the face on the shroud, and left it for 36 hours ("On the third day he rose again").

At first the results were unsatisfactory, but after some adjustments to the quantities and the mixtures, the cloth emerged with almost the same marks as the shroud. He shows me one of his experimental cloths — it certainly looks like the real thing. "And you notice there is a white gap on the shroud face, between the nose and the cheek. You know why?" I shake my head. "Well, St John refers to a 'napkin around Jesus's head' [John vv7-8, 20], which the disciples who entered the tomb saw 'rolled up in a place by itself'. I think this was the chin strap used to stop a corpse's mouth from falling open."

> 'There is no other object that seems to arouse so much love and hate'



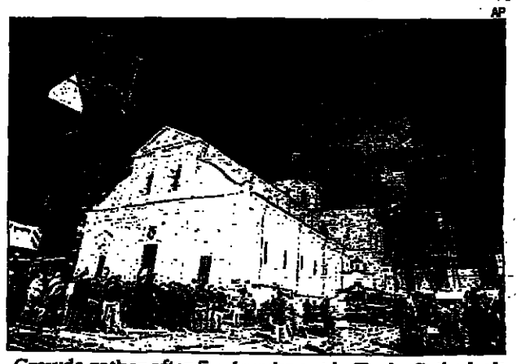
P.BALBONTIN/GRAZIA NERI

Don Giuseppe Ghiberti, deputy head of the Turin Commission for the Display of the Shroud: "I have seen hardened scientists burst into tears at the sight of it"



AP

A member of the public helps Mario Trematore, a fireman, carry the shroud. "The force was in the cloth," said Trematore



AP

Crowds gather after fire breaks out in Turin Cathedral

Is this science in the service of faith — or more evidence that the shroud has the power to entrance even the practical-minded and the level-headed?

Proof that the shroud still inflames passions came when fire once again nearly destroyed it exactly a year ago. The fire broke out just before midnight on April 11, 1997, as a two-year restoration of the Guarini Chapel was nearing completion. A state dinner was in full swing next door at the Royal Palace in honour of Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, and there were food warmers, generators, spotlights and heaters amid the tangle of scaffolding and electricity cables.

Whatever caused the fire, it spread rapidly from the Palace to the Cathedral, and the chapel was engulfed by flames. A fireman called Mario Trematore earned national fame by unhesitatingly running through the flames and smashing the bullet-proof glass protecting the silver casket with a pickaxe.

"The force was in the cloth," he said afterwards — a remarkable statement from a man who, according to friends, is very matter-of-fact. "God gave me the strength to save the holy shroud." The casket and its precious contents emerged from the smoke and flames in front of 3,000 weeping spectators, including Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, the present Archbishop and its official custodian. Although the preliminary inquiry ruled out arson, conspiracy theories flashed around the world.

Was it the work of the Mafia or a pre-millennial warning of doom after the Hale-Bopp comet? Vittorio Messori, a Turin writer on the shroud, told me it was "no accident" that the fire broke out on a Friday night, "the night Christ's body was wrapped in linen and laid in the tomb.

"There is no other object which arouses so much love and hate," Messori said. "It has everything — Jesus, the Templars who brought it to Europe, science."

The faithful may soon face a new test of their patience. The possibility that the shroud contains DNA has inspired a film project launched in London this week. Entitled *Clone*, it will portray an attempt to clone Jesus Christ from the shroud DNA and so precipitate the Second Coming. According to the film-maker David Rolfe, last year's fire in the Guarini Chapel was an arson attack intended to conceal a bungled attempt to steal the shroud and obtain the DNA.

For Sindonologists, the fact that the shroud survived was further proof of its miraculous powers — and its genuineness. They are particularly scathing about the theory that the shroud is a fake by Leonardo da Vinci, who — as Vittoria Haziel, a journalist and author of *The Passion According to Leonardo*, points out — was an expert in mirror writing, and so "knew all about positive and negative".

Leonardo is known to have experimented in aromatic oils and human blood as painting materials. He became devoutly religious late in life and was "tormented" by an unnamed "terrible sin" — possibly the forgery of the shroud. The measurements on the shroud correspond with his "Renaissance Man", and the nail marks suggest "a profound knowledge of anatomy". The believers retort that there is documentary proof that the shroud was frequently shown in public long before Leonardo, and in 1453 — the year after Leonardo was born — was given by Margherita de Charny to Ludovico the Second of Savoy. A House of Savoy legal document in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris records the transaction.

A further boost for the believers comes from Turin itself, where Pier Luigi Bollone, a professor of forensic medicine, and Nello Balossino, a professor of computer science, say they have detected the faint impression on the cloth of a Roman coin dating from the reign of Tiberius just above the left eye of the face on the cloth. The coin, they say, bears the letters TIB and CAI, for Tiberius Caesar, and LIS: L for year, I for 10 and S for six — the 16th year of Tiberius's reign, or AD 29 by modern reckoning, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea.

Professor Balossino has compared the coin with Palestinian coinage of the same period in the British Museum, and points out that it was a "common Hebrew practice to place coins on or near the eyes after death". According to Maria Grazia Siliato, an archaeologist who published a book on the shroud last year, there is "barely detectable Greco-Latin writing" round the face reading "Jesus, the Nazarene".

Don Giuseppe Ghiberti, deputy head of the Turin Commission for the Display of the Shroud, is heartened by such "proof" that the carbon dating might be wrong. "I have seen hardened scientists burst into tears at the sight of the shroud," he says. The shroud "not only shows the likeness of the man who was wrapped in it, it also shows marks of blood on the forearms and around the waist, with evidence of 50 blows".

Don Giuseppe deduces that "there were two flagellators, one on the right and one on the left, with orders to hit the man on all parts of the body except near the heart. The cuts and scratches on the forehead and nape make one think of the crown of thorns on Jesus's head". There is also evidence of "bruising on the shoulders from carrying the crossbar".

Professor Cinquemani, the neurosurgeon who has constructed a "working model" of the Crucifixion, believes Jesus died not from asphyxiation but from a wound in the right shoulder, which severed an artery. The body was leaning to the right on the cross "because the right lung filled with blood".

Amid this barrage from "scientific believers", the Pope has remained cautious. The Pontiff is to visit the shroud on May 24. "It is certainly a relic," he says carefully, "and if so many believe in it, then their conviction is not without foundation." Not exactly a ringing endorsement. But as *La Stampa*, the Turin newspaper, puts it: "Perhaps it does not matter that scientists have yet to give a decisive verdict. It is a precious legacy, both for Christianity and for Turin."

See the shroud, page 26

هكذا من الأصل

نسخة من الأصل

I don't trust the National Trust

Ruthless marketing is killing our gardens, says Stephen Anderton



TONY WHITE

Sissinghurst is a spectacular garden but the many visitors are irritated by a uniformly high standard of maintenance, ubiquitous laminated plant labels and overall lack of inspiration in the planting



When garden enthusiasts come together, sooner or later the conversation turns to the National Trust, and words like "clinical" and "lifeless" are bandied about. But is this criticism fair, or even true?

To be sure, there is legitimate cause for concern, simply because the National Trust has such an awesomely powerful grasp of the nation's historic gardens. Never before in Britain and perhaps in the world has such a varied collection of living artwork been held in one set of hands.

However, like it or hate it, the National Trust has made *gardens and garden-visiting* one of the great marketable tourist attractions of Great Britain Plc. And, in turn, gardens represent the most popular and lucrative face of the Trust.

But there is a price to be paid for the corporate ownership of England's private Edens. Many people now say they all look the same, they are run by committee and have no personal driving force. Of course it is not so — you could not hope to find a more varied set of gardens, from the great estates of the past 500 years down to cottages and terraced houses. But they are marketed and presented with a ruthless uniformity which would kill the soul of any garden.

There was a time when the National Trust needed more members. Remember those "I am One in a Million" stickers *in rear windscreens just a few* years ago? Now there are 2.75 million members and growing. But how do you please 2.75 million people all of the time? Isn't it destructive madness for the Trust to try? The Trust's marketing wing obviously sees a need to present a brand image, to make people (and potential members) feel at home whenever they step into a National Trust property. From the *absurdly tasteful olive-green traf*fic cones and squeaky-clean lavatories to the reek of potpourri, it is the same from Bath to Berwick. Before you get into the garden, you have already been bombarded by familiar images. The brain's receptors freeze.

Ladies of a certain age and class smile the same smile from ticket offices. Some, jovial and persistent, will try to pressgang you into taking out membership. There are the same appeal notices, the same leaflets for other properties, the same gift shop full of the same gifts.

How can any garden, experienced through this heavy-duty filter, feel different?

Gardens are there to be experienced through the mind and the senses, and as deeply



or shallowly as you choose. They are not there to be chopped up and force-fed to people, as a marketable "Experience". If small private gardens seem remarkably different from corporately owned gardens, it is often because they simply do not have the money to compete in the Great Marketing Race.

The bigger an organisation, the faster it is obliged to jump the legislative hurdles. Health and safety legislation, for example, is an appalling intruder. Gardens are supposed to be peaceful or exciting, and sometimes both; but not safe. Yet the law requires paths to be uniformly even, ponds to be ludicrously shallow, drops to be protected and hazard signs to be conspicuous. It is traffic law applied to gardens.

So how should the Trust free its gardens? One frequent *suggestion is to put one person* in charge of a garden: a head gardener, a manager or an owner who can stamp some personality on the place.

The National Trust has moved toward this, giving individual site managers a responsibility for finances, marketing and presentation, which would have been unheard of ten years ago.

Yet still it will not work, because in big, modern, caring organisations staff are on the Annual Appraisal system. Everyone must "meet identifiable and quantifiable targets" to get a pay rise. Not enough, then, to keep the place looking good. Continuing quality alone is not sufficient: last year's targets must be raised or there's no rise, no Marks & Spencer vouchers.

And so the marketing impulse keeps the upper hand. Marketing aside, what else prompts people to say that the gardens are looked after and developed in a "clinical" way? Are they really at a dreary, committee-bound standstill?

Is it the uniformly high standard of maintenance — the Sissinghurst superlative — which secretly niggles; or the ubiquitous laminated plant labels? Is it the generosity with which conspicuous benches are provided for visitors? Glorious, romantic Scotney Castle is beseiged by benches, as if it were an impertinence to expect people to sit on the grass.



Is it the self-effacing way in which the Trust tries to garden, as if the very inspiration behind the current garden planting is invisible, and only a tribute to dead men? Where is the celebration of its current gardeners, and the advisers who plan the planting?

The Trust points out that almost all gardens are the result of a cross-fertilisation of talents not found in just one person. Hidcote, the archetypal Arts and Crafts Cotswold garden, came about through the offices of owner Lawrence Johnston, his head gardener, and designer Norah Lindsay. The massive 18th-century landscape garden at Stowe, Buckinghamshire, was driven by a succession of owners and string of designers.

The Trust is only doing the same when it runs gardens through the triumvirate of agent, head gardener and gardens adviser. It combines the historical and aesthetic with the practical, and an overview of gardens generally. It's not a bad recipe.



But alongside the criticism of uniformity in the Trust's gardens is the feeling that "they ought to be doing something new". Well, what? It would be like the National Gallery asking Hockney to give all the Old Masters a bit more zing. But unlike paintings, gardens are living things. Why shouldn't the Trust give some of its lesser historic gardens a suitable, vigorous, large-scale contemporary development to keep them alive?

Whether it welcomes it or not, the Trust is seen as the pinnacle of English gardening. And even though conservation may be its prime aim, for the sake of its public image — as the gallery of the nation's gardens — it should now look for, or make, some major modern gardens to add to its historic portfolio. It should let the new dazzle just like the old. It would be a breath of fresh air for staff and visitors alike.

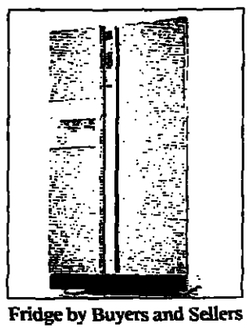
"ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR FILMS EVER MADE."
INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO KATE WINSLET
TITANIC 12
EXPERIENCE IT AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU

SHOP WATCH

■ **Debenhams** has sparked a trend for top-name designers at high street stores. Neisha Crosland's tactile scarves are the firm's latest launch. Painted silk on georgette, silk satins, and devoré evening wraps are in her signature cool, watery blues and lilacs, plus fuchsia and black. Call 0171-408 4444 for your nearest store.

■ **The Pier** has launched a mail-order catalogue. Snap up its sheer panels embroidered with coloured dots (£29.95), brilliant for curtain-shy decorators, or an abstract flower rug (£199), which passes muster as something much more exclusive. Call 0171-814 5020 for a catalogue.

■ **Buyers and Sellers** is the big gun to try if you're sourcing white goods, or coloured and stainless steel. It stocks goods from more than 50 companies and has a



Fridge by Buyers and Sellers

constant array of bargains. There is a free advice line and nationwide delivery. Find Buyers and Sellers at 120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (0171-229 1947).

■ **Virgin Vie**, Virgin's new chain of cosmetics shops, is gaining pace. It has well-priced toiletries with a New Age slant, aimed at busy women. Who could resist products with names like Peace, Energy and Glee? The latest branch to open is in Castle Mee in Norwich. Call 0870-909 9092 for a mail-order catalogue.

■ UPDATE: **Jigsaw Juniors** has opened its flagship shop at 97 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-823 8915) ... You've got the curtains, now get the walls to match. **Designers Guild's** new paints are in vivid lilacs, limes and blues. Call 0171-243 7300 for stockists ... **Nicole Farhi's** eclectic home range has arrived at her store at 193 Sloane Street, London SW3 (0171-235 0877).

JUDITH WILSON

A crafty cook in Kent

TV chef Michael Barry pays a nostalgic visit to a store which answers all his shopping needs. **Michael Cable** reports

my favourite shop

When people talk about the best thing since sliced bread it conjures up a vivid childhood memory for Michael Barry. Television's "Crafty Cook" was five years old when one of the early automatic slicing machines was delivered to his uncle's bakery in the South Wales village where his mother's family lived.

"The family gathered to watch as the first loaf was ceremoniously placed in the machine," he recalls. "It was a very basic affair involving a series of rotating knives. My uncle switched it on and after a lot of whirring and banging the loaf popped out, ready-cut and wrapped in waxed paper. It seemed like magic."

More than 50 years later, he has only to walk through the door of Burgess Stores in Goudhurst, Kent, to be reminded of those days in Resolven, West Glamorgan, when he was occasionally allowed to help drive the horse and cart with which another uncle, a dairy farmer, used to deliver the milk.

"Burgess Stores is one of the few places I know that is just like the sort of shops I went to as a kid," he says, admiring wooden clothes pegs, rubber bath plugs, bottles of strong local ale with names such as Old Dick and Kentish Gold, as well as his favourite Thai sweet and sour sauce.

Although Burgess Stores dates back to 1831 and remained in the Burgess family for 140 years, its appeal for Mr Barry is not simply nostalgic or sentimental. "I'm very old-fashioned and I like old-fashioned things — but only when they work," says the broadcasting executive-turned-celebrity cook whose latest recipe book, *Crafty Fast Food*, is aimed at supermarket shoppers.

He says: "Village shops are often run by people who see them as a form of semi-retirement and they tend to be characterised by cheap brands and wrinkled vegetables, which is why they can't compete. But this place makes a real effort."

Within months of taking over the shop three years ago, John Maxwell Jones, the 62-year-old proprietor, and his wife, Elaine, succeeded in reaching the final of Kent's Best Village Shop competition. Customers come for their local produce, from jams, pickles and sloe wine to sausages called Corkers and the chocolate-coated, roasted Kentish cobnuts known as Plattinums.

These rare delights are mostly supplied by members of Kentish Fare, the association of regional food and drink producers of which Mr Barry, who lives in Canterbury, happens to be the enthusiastic and crusading chairman.

He says: "I used to drive around places that were producing all sorts of marvellous goodies, often on a very small scale, and it struck me that it was crazy that I was driving all over Kent to find the stuff. We have put in place a network and a distribution system of restaurants, shops and cafés that enables them to get their produce out."

His involvement with Kentish Fare is just one aspect of a life that has been so busy and varied over the years that he adopted a second identity to avoid confusing people.

It was as Michael Bukht, son of a Pakistani diplomat, that he joined the BBC as a trainee, rising to become editor of the long-running current affairs programme *24 Hours*. He was then the founding programme controller of Capital Radio before setting up Classic FM.

Interested in food and cooking from an early age — his mother was a domestic science teacher — it was while at Capital that he quite unexpectedly made a new professional name for himself as a celebrity cook after standing in rather too successfully as holiday relief for the regular presenter of the recipe slot. "I'm afraid the poor lady never did get her job back," he says.

Forced to reduce his workload after being diagnosed last year with Ménière's disease, an incurable inner-ear complaint triggered by stress, he has stepped down as programme controller of Classic FM but will continue to appear on his BBC *Food And Drink* programme and to write.

Neither the minor dietary restrictions imposed by his doctors nor those he has followed since committing to his father's Muslim faith, when he was 18, have cramped the culinary style of someone who makes a point of defining himself as a cook rather than a chef.

"The difference is that chefs dress up in funny clothes and cook the same food every night for different people for money, while cooks don't dress up and cook different food every night for the same people for no money," he says.

Married to actress and dancer Jenny Jones, with four children aged 18 to 32, he says he welcomes the chance of taking things easier. "I've been going at it hammer and tongs for 35 years and I'm quite glad to devote more time to gardening, sailing, seeing my grandchildren and simply cooking for pleasure," he says.

● *Burgess Stores, High Street, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1AL (01580 211206). Open: Mon to Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 8.45am-6pm, Sun 10.30am-5pm.*



CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Michael Barry (above): "It reminds me of shops when I was a child"



Burgess Stores in Goudhurst specialises in produce from all over Kent

GADGETS

FEW experiences are more miserable than arriving exhausted at a campsite and then having to spend up to an hour erecting the tent before you can shelter from the rain. Chukka-Tents go a long way to reducing such problems since they are self-erecting.

It takes less than three seconds for a Chukka-Tent to erect itself when tossed into the air. The tents are made from lightweight nylon hung on springy oil-tempered steel tensile hoops, which is why they open just as easily as automatic umbrellas.

Chukka-Tents, designed in America, come in all sizes,



The Chukka-Tent

from a Kids' Play Tent to the top-of-the-range Casa Grande, which can sleep six.

When camping out, you will invariably need a little torch, and Polaroid's sleek PolaPulse Light fits the bill. The flat, disposable torch has a halogen bulb, so the light is exceptionally bright. The drawback is that it only works when the button is held down.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Self-erecting tents cost from £42 to £275 plus p&p from Chukka-Tent (01392 434760). PolaPulse Light, £4.95, from The Gadget Shop (01482 871001).*

Don't be a lather lout

SOAP DISHES

WHOEVER you are and whatever your bathing habits, you will (hopefully) have soap in the house. Where you store it will determine how long it lasts. Kept in a wet vessel that retains water it will soon become a soft, white and impossible-to-hold sludgy mass; held in a dish that allows it to dry and ensures it is always in the same place when you come to use it, it will last for longer and be a pleasure to lather with.

Wood and metal have lately joined more traditional materials moving out of the kitchen and into the bathroom.

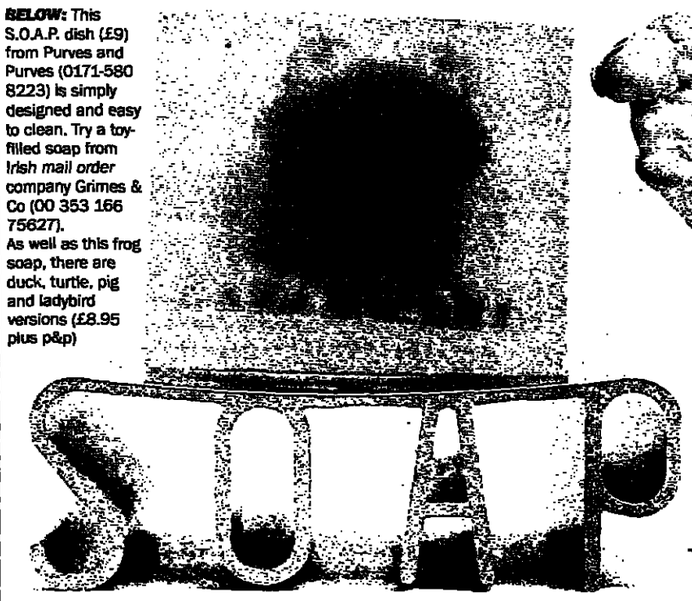
Ceramic dishes, always popular, are still available, but now more contemporary materials such as aluminium, rubber, plastic and chrome have muscled their way into the soap dish market. The new, leggy Octopuss soap dish from Koziol, for example, is made from the latest in techno-plastic soft polypropylene, which, according to Sophie Hubble, bath house buyer for Liberty, was chosen for its pliable and non-slip qualities.

Should you fancy a bathtime companion, the inflatable parrot from The Source doubles as a soap dish and a floating toy. Or, for an earthier look, try Emily Readett-Bayley's soap dishes, fashioned from pure bamboo that she grows herself.

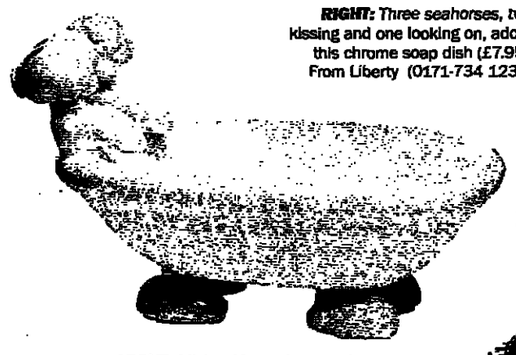
But as well as looking good, dishes should be practical: easy to clean, small enough to fit on a small bath rim and well-perforated to allow water to drain from them. All that then has to be done is to fill it with a generously scented bar and enjoy the lather.

MARY ANN PERCY

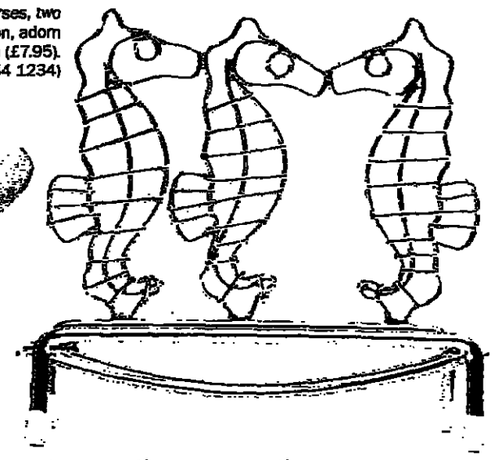
BELOW: This S.O.A.P. dish (£9) from Purves and Purves (0171-580 8223) is simply designed and easy to clean. Try a toy-filled soap from Irish mail order company Grimes & Co (00 353 166 75627). As well as this frog soap, there are duck, turtle, pig and ladybird versions (£8.95 plus p&p)

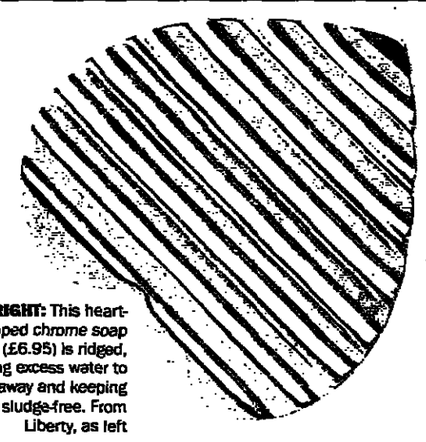


RIGHT: Three seahorses, two kissing and one looking on, adorn this chrome soap dish (£7.95). From Liberty (0171-734 1234)

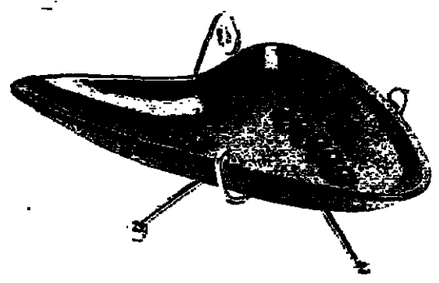


ABOVE: Mickey Mouse hands grip on to the taps of this Fantasia-type ceramic bathtub soap dish (£4.99). From The Disney Store (0171-287 6558)

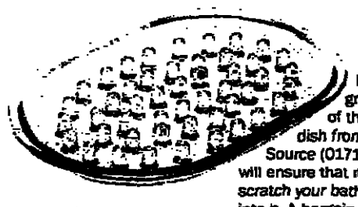




RIGHT: This heart-shaped chrome soap dish (£6.95) is ridged, allowing excess water to drain away and keeping soap sludge-free. From Liberty, as left

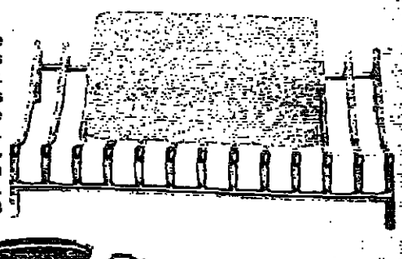


LEFT: This retro melamine soap dish (£4.58 inc. p&p) is made of black metal and stands on its own legs. Mail order from Bliss (01789 400077)

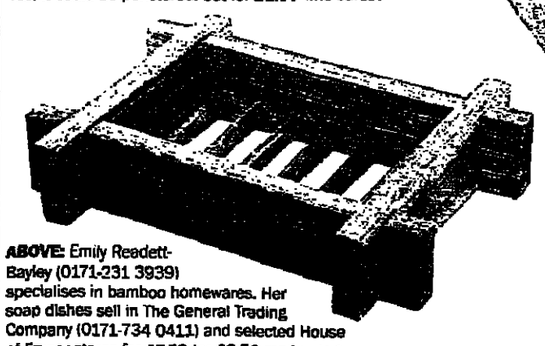


LEFT: The green rubber of this soap dish from The Source (0171-937 2626) will ensure that it doesn't scratch your bathtub, or slip into it. A bargain at 89p

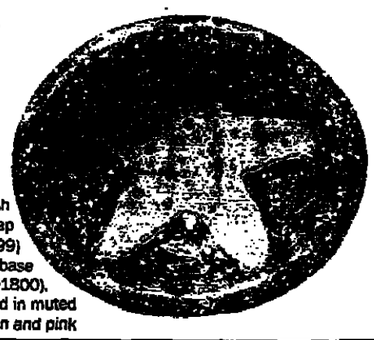
ABOVE: Floatable, fashionable and fun for kids is the green and red parrot soap dish from The Source, as above. Yes, it could be punctured, but for £1.50 who cares?



RIGHT: Muji's chrome soap dish (£6.95) is simple and minimalist. Muji also has delicious smelling glycerine soaps for 95p each. Choose from mandarin, citrus fruit, lemon or avocado. Call 0171-437 7503



ABOVE: Emily Readett-Bayley (0171-231 3939) specialises in bamboo homewares. Her soap dishes sell in The General Trading Company (0171-734 0411) and selected House of Fraser stores for £7.50 (or £8.50 mail order)



RIGHT: Starfish ceramic soap dish (£17.99) from Homebase (0645 801800), decorated in muted tones of green and pink



RIGHT: Simple, black wire flower-shaped soap dish, just £2.50 from South American specialists Mexique (0181-392 2345)



ABOVE: Aluminium fishy soap dish (ref 230183) from After Noah for £7 (plus 1.50 p&p) (mail order: 0171-359 4281)

Photographs by **Des Jenson**

هكذا من الأصل

هذا من الأصل

Beyond the pale

Calvin Klein describes his collection of white summerwear as "seemingly simple, intrinsically elegant and naturally unassuming". Rei Kawakubo, the Comme des Garçons designer whose summer collection was almost entirely made of white cotton, says white was the only way to "get back to real basics".

White clothing this summer is not just about looking cool — it is about appearing pure, simple and unconcerned with clutter. It is the fashion equivalent of a steel chair.

Nicole Farhi has always been a fan of white. "There is nothing better than a crisp white shirt or more fresh than white linen in the summer," she says.

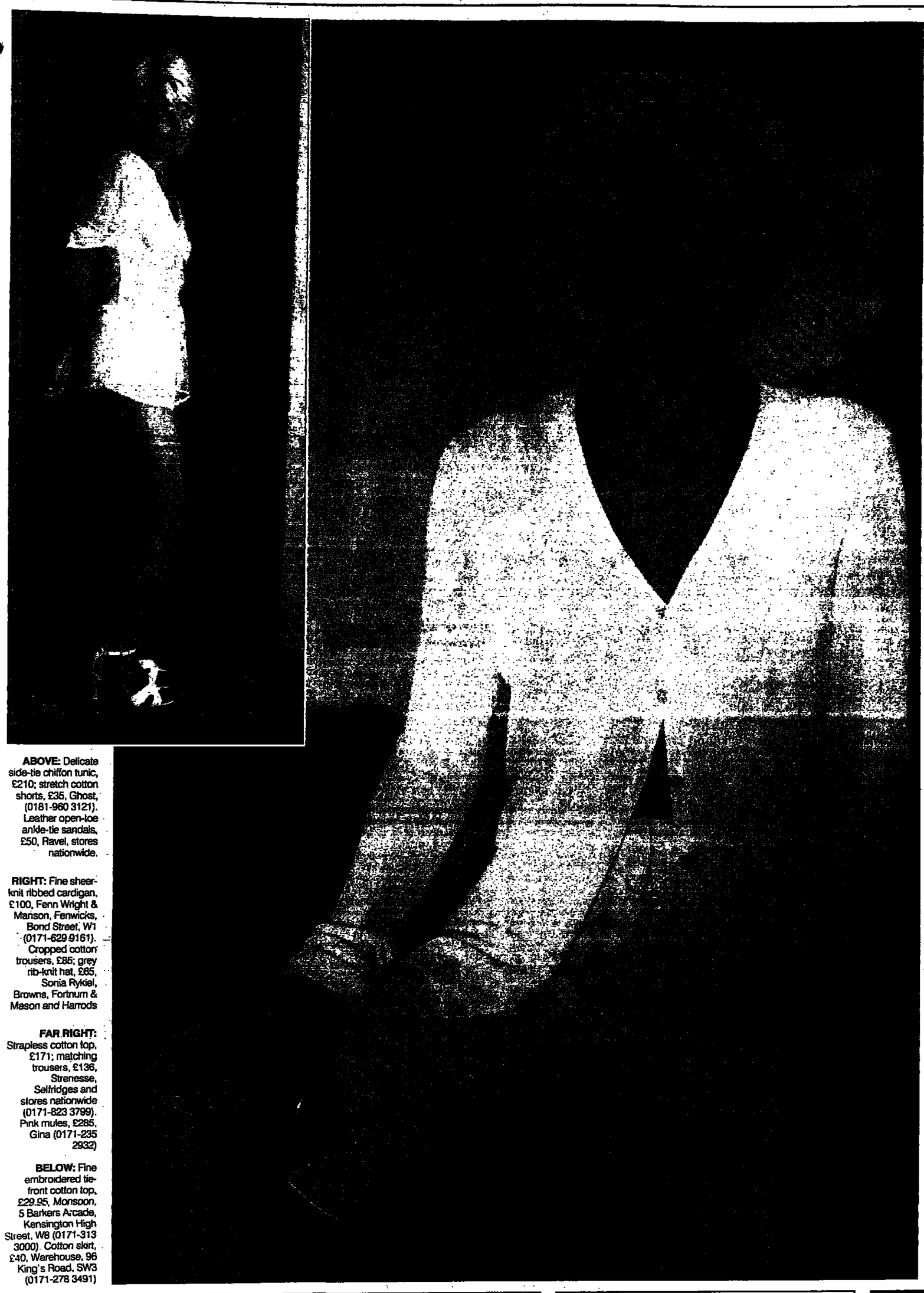
Designer Ally Capellino says: "It can be the best way to show up what you have had for dinner or it can look a million dollars." But most designers agree that it is the perfect way to show up this season's clean, simple lines.

"It is really the most modern colour," says the knitwear designer Julien Macdonald. "It accentuates the face and is a fresh alternative to black."

As well as staples such as suits, dresses and jeans, this season's key styles are in every high-street store. Simple drawstring Calvin Klein lookalike pants are stocked by Marks & Spencer (£40), Warehouse (£40), Jigsaw (£64) and Dorothy Perkins (£30); capri pants by M&S (£28), Warehouse (£40) and Top Shop (£28); and white linen shirts by everyone from Laura Ashley (£50) to Armani Jeans (£99).

If you don't have the colouring to carry off pure white, mix it with this season's brights (orange, pink and turquoise) or black. "I was in Miami, where people were wearing white, but with slashes of black and it looked very cool," says Ben de Lisi. "Whatever you wear it with, it transports you to summer."

LISA GRAINGER



ABOVE: Delicate side-tie chiffon tunic, £210; stretch cotton shorts, £35, Ghost, (0181-960 3121). Leather open-toe ankle-tie sandals, £50, Ravel, stores nationwide.

RIGHT: Fine sheer-knit ribbed cardigan, £100, Fenn Wright & Manson, Fenwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161). Cropped cotton trousers, £85; grey rib-knit hat, £65, Sonia Rykiel, Browns, Fortnum & Mason and Harrods

FAR RIGHT: Strapless cotton top, £171; matching trousers, £136, Strenesse, Selfridges and stores nationwide (0171-823 3799). Pink mules, £285, Gina (0171-235 2932)

BELOW: Fine embroidered tie-front cotton top, £29.95, Monsoon, 5 Barkers Arcade, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-313 3000). Cotton skirt, £40, Warehouse, 96 King's Road, SW3 (0171-278 3491)



BELOW: Single-breasted one-button jacket, £79; matching trousers, £34.99, Kookaï, 123d Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 4411). Crinkle muslin fitted shirt, £27.95, Monsoon, as left



THREE OF A KIND

Who says white stilettos are naff? With a wispy white dress, and bright pink toenails, they are the ultimate accessory to show off a pair of bare tanned legs. LG



LEFT: White leather fine strappy slingback mules, £180, Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, SW2 (0171-235 6008)



RIGHT: White satin criss-cross fine-heel sandals, £45, Faith stores nationwide (0800 289297)



LEFT: White patent ankle-tie open-toe sandals, £275, Manolo Blahnik, 49-51 Old Church Street, SW3 (0171-352 8622)

Photographs by **Nick Farrell** at Artist Group Management, LA, California. Hair and make-up by **Noriko Kerns** for Estée Lauder, using Double Wear Stay in Place Makeup SPF10; Compact Disc eyeshadows and True Lipstick in Sugar Rose. Styling by **Amandip Uppal.** Model: **Joy**



APEX/TIM CUFF



Friendly and knowledgeable service, such as that offered at Bon Gout delicatessen in Bristol, has helped persuade supermarkets to introduce their own specialist staff

Big stores start to think small

Is the personal touch returning to Britain's main food retailers, asks **John Whitley**

SWNS



The delicatessen counter at Marks & Spencer's new outlet in Bristol

For more than 30 years the supermarket giants have dominated British food shopping with their policy of "pile it high and sell it cheap", which steamrollered ordinary shops and individual producers almost out of existence. Now they have gone into reverse and are attempting to reconstitute those very factors of personal service and specialist produce by opening mini-shops inside the mega-stores.

Last month, the acknowledged brand leader of the chains, Marks & Spencer, opened its latest, 97,000 sq ft store at Cribbs Causeway, on the outskirts of Bristol it incorporated a shop within a store — a delicatessen where specially trained staff slice hams and whole cheeses to order, dole out samples for braver customers to taste and, for the first time at M&S, produce hot snacks and roast chicken from a rotisserie.

By next month, there will be six of these enclaves in stores from Lisburn and Warrington to Camberley and Gateshead, established at a cost estimated to be in excess of £10 million, with 25 more planned by the end of the year.

They are the opening shots in a new battle for market supremacy between the four most powerful retailers, and for the first time the weapons are quality and service instead of cheapness or convenience.

Tesco, the inventor of the pile-it-high philosophy, is aiming upmarket with the launch in 200 stores of a new range of meals claimed to be of restaurant standard, and is investing heavily to persuade big farmers to grow organic produce.

Sainsbury's says it is equally eager to build the organic market and is experimenting with smaller, more intimate town centre stores. Even lordly Waitrose admits that it has been evolving new serving and buying strategies.

All are driven not by philanthropy, but by a conviction that customers in general have caught the foodie disease — an addiction to the unfamiliar, the exotic and healthier dishes they have encountered on trips abroad, or seen on cookery seminars featured on television and in newspapers.

> 'Customers behave like the chefs they see on TV'

"You can see it happening almost by the week," says Steve Heywood, manager of Sainsbury's flagship store in Clapham, south London. "Customers are behaving like the chefs they see on TV — they want to get back to the original ingredients and make the dishes themselves, rather than get them ready-made. They come in with the recipes propped up on the trolleys and tell us what produce to buy instead of us telling them, as we used to."

Mike Raycroft, a Tesco director, can measure the shift since he joined the chain in 1964. "The only cheese we had then was Irish Cheddar, Danish Cheddar, English Cheddar and Dutch Edam, so there's no doubt that there is a demand for more sophisticated foods today.

"TV endorsement is very important — you know that if something has appeared on the *Food and Drink* programme it will go off the shelves the next morning."

But Mr Raycroft suggests that travel and publicity are only partly responsible for changing tastes. "The customer develops a taste for what's on offer. Now we can get lemon grass from Chile, for instance. People want it, but I'm not sure that they wanted it before it was there."

This personal approach is central to the supermarket revolution and is exactly what Ian Bentley is seeking at M&S with his deli counters. It is, he admits cheerfully, a return to old-fashioned values.

In search of the magic formula, he despatched a senior selector, Sandra Ziles, and a team of specialists to scour stores overseas in search of new designs and products.

"We went to shops in Dublin, Berlin and Milan," says Ms Ziles, "and then 32 supermarkets in the US.

We probably sampled a chicken from the rotisserie in each one — I got pretty tired of chicken."

Ms Ziles has drawn heavily on the delicatessens she visited in Manhattan, notably Balducci's and the celebrated Dean & Deluca, though it's hard to see how their odoriferous, prosciutto-swagged, Twenties' Italian look — not unlike Camisa in London or Valvona & Crolla in Edinburgh — can be reproduced in a British supermarket.

"I want to get colour, chunkiness and immediacy into the display," she explains. "We'll have salads freshly dressed by the server; fresh herbs, roasted vegetables and big bowls of olives and fruit salad. The staff must eat a bit of everything they display so that they can offer an opinion."

This rejection of the help-yourself, minimal staff policy of the past 30 years with its chilly, impersonal cabinets and uninterested trolley-pushers means that staff for the new counters must acquire more leisurely skills. To achieve this loosening up, M&S sent 12 hopefuls for a week-long training session with a supermarket chain it owns in America.

Liberated from the British supermarket straitjacket, they learnt how to turn their work into a piece of theatre, cutting meat in front of the counter, doling out nibbles, wrapping goods with a flourish. Gradually, a long-suppressed eagerness to share enthusiasm surfaced.

It is this mateyness that generates customer loyalty and, Mr Bentley hopes, enough extra sales to justify the floor space that his mini-shops pinch from the pre-packed cabinets. "Having an expert to talk to encourages people to buy and to experiment," he says.

Only sales figures will determine whether these bold experiments eventually turn into a full-blown revolution. Healthy profits must be made, after all, and the chill hand of accountancy still rules the fresh faces behind the counters.

SO WHO KNOWS BEST?

SUPERMARKETS still have some way to go before thay can claim to provide the expertise and service of the small shops they are attempting to imitate. At my local Safeway in London, I asked: "Could you recommend a nice piece of cheese to go with some pudding wine?" and was introduced to Carol, who ventured: "How about something with some fruit in it?" There was Wensleydale with cranberries or apricots. "Are those pasteurised or unpasteurised?" I asked. By now Carol was losing her patience. "It doesn't say on the ticket," she replied wearily. "I'm sorry I couldn't be more help but I don't really eat cheese." Carol apologised. Her honesty was admirable but begged the question of why she was serving cheese at all. Next I went to a small delicatessen, in Spitalfields, in the City of London. After I had run through my spiel, the assistant told me that most cheese would go with a dessert wine, and that I should serve several different pieces. I was then offered samples. The assistant was clearly enthusiastic and, more importantly, gave the impression that he knew what he was talking about.

JOE WARWICK

Drink



Jane MacQuitty

Add sparkle to Easter celebrations and keep the clouds at bay with a few bottles of choice bubbly

Easter, unlike Christmas, generally involves the arrangement of only one big meal — tomorrow's Sunday lunch. But, just like Christmas, most busy wine drinkers will still have a wide range of palates to accommodate this weekend: young and old, simple and sophisticated.

Fizz is still the best spring bottle I know to raise the spirits, and plenty of places are offering champagne discounts now. Among them are Safeway's 25 per cent discount on its own-label Albert Etienne Brut (£12.99 to £9.74), and Sainsbury's reduction on its Extra Dry bubbly, from £12.95 to £9.44. Better value still if you buy six for £8.97.

But neither of these blends currently shine. Instead, try Sainsbury's gorgeous Chardonnay Brut from Moingeon in Burgundy — a real creamy, lemon and marzipan-stashed méthode champenoise snip at £4.11 a bottle, or buy six for £3.90 each.



The only downside here is Sainsbury's dreary label, not what you would expect from this Bankside Gallery-supporting supermarket. JS design team take note.

Alternatively, try a more expensive transfer method bubbly from Australia: the rich, peachy, biscuit-scented 1996 Nottage Hill Sparkling Chardonnay from Hardy's (Sainsbury's, £5.76; Safeway, Fullers, Somerfield and Gateway, £6.99).

As the weather has been so mixed of late, consider serving the youngest, liveliest white wines from the newly arrived 1997 vintage. Their fresh-as-a-daisy flavours will at least encourage sunny thoughts even when it's pouring down.

Lindemans' new 1997 Bin 70 is a fine, musky, grapey, invigorating spring blast with plenty of grassy, lime-scented fruit and a touch of oak on the finish (Oddbins and the Victoria Wine Company, £4.99).

Chardonnay continues to be the safe white wine grape choice, so tuck into the dirt-cheap, appley, nutty 1997 Louis Chatel Chardonnay, Vin de Pays d'Oc, £3.49 from Fullers.

For a classy white burgundy, check out Victoria Wine's toothsome deal on the splendid, rich, hazelnut biscuit-scented 1995 Louis Jadot Chardonnay, £7.99 reduced to £6.49 a bottle if you buy two.

At the other end of the spectrum, a bold, buttered-toast bottle whose fat flavour could even handle Easter lamb is Fetzer's 1995 Barrel Select Chardonnay (Tesco, £7.99; Safeway, £8.99).

Easter's main dish is Paschal lamb, and although you could serve a big white, its best partner is a tender, plummy beaujolais. The combination of the melt-in-the-mouth flavours of the new season's rosy-pink lamb and a top, juicy beaujolais vintage year is a gastronomic treat.

The best value beaujolais I have tasted from the 1995 vintage is Georges Duboeuf's glorious, vibrant Beaujolais Villages, positively oozing with cherry and plum fruit (Thresher, Fullers, Tesco and *Majestic Wine*, £4.99).

Britain's drinkers have lapped up 10,000 cases of this wine, so stock up now before Duboeuf moves on to the 1996 vintage, as it surely will soon. If you want to push the boat out, try the richer, fruitier and more floral 1995 St Amour Domaine des Pierres from Trichard (Majestic, £8.49).

One 1996 that I do approve of, and is also great value, is Somerfield and Gateway's perfumed, plummy 1996 Brouilly, £6.49 a bottle and great with Easter lamb.

One step up in intensity from Beaujolais, in the southernmost extremity of the Burgundy region, is a delicate pinot noir. Again, Victoria Wine has a good deal on its handsome, gamey, 1995 Louis Jadot Pinot Noir (Victoria Wine, £7.99, or £6.49 if you buy two) with sufficient of this grape's ripe, plummy fruit not to overwhelm the first of the new season's lamb.

If, like me, you intend to spend the remainder of tomorrow gorging on Easter eggs, you will need something in your glass to refresh your palate between bites. Last week's dry, tangy Penfolds Magill Tawny dessert wine is still the best, cheapest, chocoholic bottle I know, particularly if you buy it at £1 off at £4.99 from Victoria Wine Cellars.

The upmarket, richer version of this is Seppelt's rich, toffee and walnut-licked DP 63 Rutherglen Show Muscat (Oddbins, £7.49 a half-bottle).

If simnel cake, rather than chocolate, is your Easter indulgence, try a surprisingly good kirsch, Hoppe's Kirsch de Cuisine (Sainsbury's £7.55, Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up, £7.99), with its strong, liquid marzipan scent and bitter, cherry liquor. Happy Easter.

NEXT WEEK: English wines



THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT

ROBERT OPIE



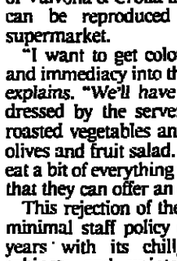
Party Seven

"WHAT do we want? *Watneys!*" Not the now-cultish Red Barrel brew, but the old "Special". Sadly, there was nothing special about it, save that it could be purchased *en route* to World Cup success in weighty six- or seven-pint formulae, complete with its own cunning little tin-opener device: the perfect accompaniment to instant mashed potato and the cardboard-flavoured white sliced of old. It tasted like . . . victory!

Beer-in-can experiments date back to the 1930s, but the novelty tub of "keg" became the life and soul of the party in the 1960s and '70s, a rite of passage for a generation of students. The full line-up included the immortal Worthington "E" and the wonder-working Double Diamond. Manchester brewers Boddingtons produced the "Bodcan", which although filtered, *was not pasteurised*. Ruddles, with its own rubber "bung", turned a generation of ale lovers on to the pregnant possibilities of "real" ale, thus ringing the death-knell of the Party Seven keg. The landlord-supplied plastic container of draught caught on briefly, before the prevailing reign of the American-style six-pack and widget began.

KATE STRONACH

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK



I HAVE always believed that you should never use fresh ingredients when they are out of season. This is for several reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, because produce from South America often does not bear up to comparison with its native cousin (asparagus is the obvious example).

Secondly there is the cost implication — high import tariffs that the retailer passes on: and thirdly, there is the thrill of anticipation as you await the return of a seasonal favourite, such as asparagus again. As you may have noticed, I find it difficult not to put asparagus with everything come the end of April.

But there is an exception to every rule, and with me it is peas. I adore fresh peas with a passion; their lush sweetness is a real joy in the summer and yet, after cooking, they are always a disappointment. There is rarely much sweetness remaining.

After a little investigation I found out why it happens. It is because from the moment that you pick your fresh peas the natural sugars contained within begin to convert to starch.

By the time they have been packed and shipped to a greengrocer and sat on the shelf for a day or two, the sugars have all but gone.

Two solutions exist: for those lucky enough to grow their own, it really could not be any simpler. All you have to do is pick 'em, pod 'em and cook 'em. And then eat 'em.

Those of us without a vegetable garden must head for the freezer for a bag of tender garden peas. Normally fresh produce is always superior but peas are again an exception.

Because the producer takes all the *previously mentioned steps in* quick succession, we have a product to hand vastly superior to the fresh version available in the shops.

Here is my favourite way of using them, in a perfect "spring is here" dinner.

Buttered lemon sole fillets with a pea and mint purée. You will need: 2 cups of frozen peas; 2tbsp unsalted butter; 3 sprigs fresh mint; 2 tbsp crème fraiche; olive oil; 2 large lemon sole fillets; juice of half a lemon.

Boil the peas in plenty of unsalted water until cooked, drain and transfer straight to a food processor and add the butter, mint and crème fraiche. Season well with salt and pepper; if the mixture is too thick, add some hot water. Meanwhile preheat the grill, brush the fish fillets with some of the olive oil and place under the grill for a couple of *minutes until* cooked.

Divide the purée on to two plates and top with fish. Finally, tip any cooking juices into a small bowl and add a little more olive oil together with the lemon juice, stir *together and spoon this* loose sauce over the fish.

● *The author is head chef at Harvey Nichols' fifth-floor restaurant in Knightsbridge.*

STAR BUYS

1997 Ironstone Semillon-Chardonnay, Western Australia, Unwins, £6.19; Majestic Wine, Tesco and Fullers, £6.49.

David Hohnen's latest Western Australia pair makes a great Easter duo. The white is an invigorating lemon and grapefruit zest-stashed wine. With 13 per cent alcohol, Ironstone's blended white is a spring-into-summer bottle, as great with food as it is without.



1997 Ironstone Shiraz-Grenache, Western Australia, stockists and prices as left, and at James Nicholson, 27a Killyleagh Street, Crossgar, Co Down, £6.49.

This year's blend is a shiraz-grenache combo. Spicy, earthy tones from the shiraz, while grenache grapes from old vines give an intriguing sweet yet bitter cherry note. Splendid to see Ironstone continue with its 14.5 per cent alcohol content.



BEST OF THE REST

Unwins' April wheeze is to knock 15 per cent off any two bottles of Australian wine, which brings Ironstone down from £6.49 to £5.52 a bottle. Other good Aussie deals include Winery Semillon (£5.94). Best's wondrous 1993 Great Western Shiraz and Cabernet drop £1.50 each to £8.49.

The Times Cook



Frances Bissell

A week is a long time in the creative laboratory that is the cook's kitchen – but just what is eaten, when and why?

Sometimes I am asked what food writers eat at home. A week's menus will show the thinking behind my cooking, how I use mainly what is in season, how I utilise leftovers, and how I plan menus.

At some stage, almost all of my cooking finds its way into my writing. When I write cookery books, I write the recipes that I have cooked at home. I do not cook my way through the vegetable chapter, the pasta chapter, the fish chapter and so on.

If what I have cooked is not well received, I probably never cook it again — and I certainly never write about it. I was pleased to read that Marcella Hazan writes her cookery books in the same way.

A recent week was as representative as any. On Sunday, old friends came for a late Sunday lunch. The day before, I made a terrine of skate, smoked salmon and courgettes, and chocolate pots.

These two dishes meant that I would need to spend only minimal



time away from our guests at lunch. The main course was zampone with lentils and mashed potatoes. Good-tempered vegetables like these, once cooked, can be kept warm for half an hour or more on heat diffusers.

The zampone simmered in its foil bag until cooked, whereupon I drained and sliced it, and served it on a bed of lentils, with the potatoes served separately. Green salad and two excellent farmhouse cheddars, Montgomery and Keene's, followed. After the chocolate pots, made with dark chocolate and soya "cream", there was dessert of fruit, nuts and marrons glacés.

Monday's dinner started with an avocado and waxy potato salad, with walnuts and an orange and walnut vinaigrette. The main course has been a Monday-night fixture for many years: a pot-roasted chicken with vegetables, and, separately, basmati rice cooked in the oven.

Blueberries stirred into yoghurt followed. Of all the berry fruit, blueberries keep best: I bought four cartons on their sell-by-date for half-price and they kept for another week in the refrigerator.

Fennel, tomato and chicory made a crisp salad to start Tuesday's dinner. I followed it with a favourite pasta dish — *spaghetti Genovese*, with small waxy potatoes, green beans, and a pesto whizzed up from two packets of basil, a handful of pinenuts, a heel of Parmesan and some and some olive oil from Mani in Greece: green, fruity and delicious.

When I walked past Steele's, our local butcher in Hampstead, on Wednesday morning, I saw they had lamb shanks. Irresistible. I bought two and made a slow-cooked casserole with olives, white wine, carrots and onions. We started dinner with the last slice of the skate terrine.

On Thursday, I made the second of our vegetable-based meals, of which I usually make three or four a week. I found fresh okra at Brian Lay's, my local greengrocer. This I cut up, dipped in a thick cornmeal batter, and deep-fried in olive oil.

I made a vegetable gumbo with more okra, beans, courgettes, carrots, onions, fennel, small waxy potatoes and chilli, and served this with rice. The blueberries turned up again in a crumble, but before I put on the topping, I poached the berries in home-made sloe gin.

The *pièce de résistance* on Friday was a fillet cut from a huge Gulf red snapper that I saw in the window of Hampstead Seafoods. It was a fine piece of fish: dense, sweet, and, it has to be said, quite chewy. I cooked it in the oven with olive oil and fino on a bed of fennel and red pepper. Monkfish, cod or halibut can be cooked the same way. With it, we drank chilled, fresh fino.

On Saturday, I made a vegetable lasagne, preceded by a green salad. Potatoes, spread with pesto, and leeks made up one layer, grilled aubergine, fennel and red pepper, the second. I used up the remaining raw vegetables to make a stunning vegetable juice, whizzing it all through the Magimix. The residue made an excellent vegetable stock used in Sunday's braised pork.

I used the leftover red snapper, blended to a cream in the food processor, to stuff some *pimentos del Piquillo*, a can of which I bought in Spain. The main course was a knuckle of free-range pork, an inexpensive cut of meat, braised slowly with fino, aromatics and rice. I thinned down the cornmeal batter, added more flour, and made crepes to serve with the rest of the blueberries and sloe gin.

Skate, smoked salmon and courgette terrine
Serves 8

- 4 sheets or teaspoons gelatine
- 600ml each good dry white wine and water
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- Slice of fresh ginger (optional)
- Piece of orange zest
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 sprig of tarragon and thyme
- Handful of parsley stalks
- 1tsp peppercorns
- 2tsp salt
- 1kg skate, carefully sliced from the bone
- 250g smoked salmon trimmings
- 200g light cream cheese or crème fraîche
- 4 courgettes, sliced lengthways and blanched until tender

Soak the gelatine by just covering it with cold water, taken from the measured amount. Simmer the aromatics and skate bones in the remaining liquid in a saucepan for 30 minutes. Strain them into a wide, shallow pan. Carefully lower the fish into the simmering *courtbouillon* and poach for about *five minutes*. Remove the fish carefully and drain it on a clean towel or kitchen paper.

Strain the cooking liquid and measure out just over 450ml into a jug. Stir in the softened gelatine until it has dissolved. Season the liquid to taste, bearing in mind that as it cools, the flavour will weaken. Remaining stock can be used for soup. Put to one side any large strips of smoked salmon, as these can form a layer in the terrine. Blend the rest with the cream cheese 150ml gelatine liquid.

Layer the fish, smoked salmon cream and courgettes in a one-kilo terrine lined with cling film. Pour on as much of the remaining gelatine liquid as the terrine will hold. Cover and refrigerate until set. Turn out, slice and accompany with salad leaves and a vinaigrette, dill mayonnaise or spicy tomato and horseradish sauce.

ALAN ADLER



Baked Gulf red snapper
Serves 2 to 3

- 1 red pepper
- 1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 fennel bulb, trimmed and sliced into thin wedges
- 2 to 3tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 to 3 tbsp fino
- Thick piece of Gulf red snapper fillet, 400 to 500g
- 2tsp black olives
- Fresh mint or coriander
- Salt
- Pepper
- ½ lemon or orange
- A few thin slices of chorizo or cured ham, shredded if desired

Peel the pepper, quarter it, discard the seeds and cut into strips. Put in a shallow ovenproof dish with the onion and fennel, add half the oil and wine, cover with foil and cook in the oven or on top of the stove until the vegetables are soft.

Season the fish with salt, pepper and the grated citrus zest and juice. Place it on top of the vegetables, first cutting it into serving pieces, if you wish. Add the rest of the olive oil and fino, the olives, and a tablespoon or two of chopped fresh



herbs. Cover with foil, and cook in the oven at 180C, gas mark 4, for about 30 minutes. Halfway through, add chorizo or ham.

Blueberry, sloe gin and almond crumble
Serves 4

- 350g blueberries
- 100ml sloe gin
- 100g flour
- 75g butter
- 50g ground almonds
- 75g light muscovado sugar
- 40g flaked or chopped almonds

Simmer the blueberries in the sloe gin for a few minutes. Sweeten if necessary, but the gin should be sweet enough. Spoon the fruit into individual ramekins. Rub the butter and flour together, stir in the ground almonds and sugar, keeping the mixture loose.

Spoon the crumble over the fruit, and scatter the almonds on top. Bake at 200 C, gas mark 6, for 15 minutes.

Serve hot or warm, with a custard or *crème anglaise* and a little more sloe gin. If you do not make your own, the Plymouth Gin company has started making a good sloe gin, as well as a companion damson gin.

© Frances Bissell 1998

NEXT WEEK:
Delicacies

THE PERFECT PRAWN COCKTAIL

SOME like their prawn cocktails made with jumbo shrimp from tropical waters — but for sweet, fresh juiciness, Greenland prawns are hard to beat: shell them or buy them shell-off. And, as you will see below in Consuming Interests, nothing compares to the homemade variety.

■ YOU NEED, for each person, 2-3 heaped tablespoons (50-75g) shelled North Sea prawns, some iceberg lettuce or some small, peppery salad leaves, a little vodka (optional), *mayonnaise* (optional), tomato juice, grated horseradish, freshly ground pepper, Tabasco, squeeze of lime, lime zest and a Martini glass.

■ METHOD: Shred the iceberg and put it or the salad leaves in the bottom of the Martini glass. Heap the prawns on top, draining the juice into a small jug. Add the rest of the ingredients except the lime zest, whisk and pour over the prawns.

■ TO SERVE. Garnish with a twist of lime and serve your prawn cocktail, or seafood Martini, with a dash of pride and a hint of irony.

NEXT WEEK:
The perfect roast chicken

CONSUMING INTERESTS: PRAWN COCKTAILS

■ A neighbouring column brings you the drinks that time forgot. Here you have the equivalent in food. Most retailers' idea of ready-made prawn cocktail is all too reminiscent of British catering before the invention of *The Good Food Guide*. The sauces are simply frightful and the "serving suggestions" usually amount to no more than adding a salad leaf or two. Anyone want to join me in a Prawn Protection Society? ROBIN YOUNG



Safeway Prawn Cocktail, *£1.99 for 200g.*
Claims: "Succulent North Atlantic prawns in a mayonnaise dressing."
Verdict: The prawns were sepulchred beneath, not mixed in, the sauce. Pity the packing was not done in reverse order, so the 1950s-redolent sauce could have been more of a dip and less of a barrier cream. ★★

St Michael Ready to Eat Prawn Cocktail, *£1.99 for 200g.*
Claims: "Large, succulent prawns in a traditional cocktail dressing." The French ingredients list reveals that prawns form just 37 per cent of the recipe.
Verdict: Ingredients include glucose syrup, spirit vinegar, modified starch and onion powder. The tender prawns retained some flavour, but were inundated in tasteless pale pink gloop. ★½

Tesco Prawn Cocktail, *£1.99 for 200g.*
Claims: "Succulent prawns in a delicious cocktail sauce. Ready to eat."
Verdict: There was much more mayonnaise, smelling like bottled salad cream and tasting of vinegar, than there were prawns in the tub. Fat content at 40.4 per cent was high, though only 3.3 per cent was saturates. ★

Asda Prawn Cocktail, *£1.49 for 200g.*
Claims: "Ready to eat. Although every care has been taken to remove shell, some small pieces may remain."
Verdict: The prawns seemed shell-free, but they were obliterated in vast amounts of a distasteful sauce (making the product 36.6 per cent fat). **No star**

Harrods Marie Rose prawns, *£3.99 for 100g.*
Claims: "Mediterranean prawns in a sauce of cream, brandy, tomato ketchup, seasoning and dill."
Verdict: In a class of their own. Four times the price of the nearest competitors, but more than four times as good. The delicious dill-flavoured sauce was good enough to be licked up to the last drop. Exceptional. ★★★★★

Sainsbury's Prawn Cocktail, *£1.99 for 200g.*
Claims: "Now with 10 per cent extra prawns."
Verdict: The overpowering effect of the brutally clumsy beige coloured sauce that obliterates all flavour from the tough-textured prawn corpses is easily explained when one sees that it is compounded with tomato ketchup, British fortified wine, English mustard paste, lemon juice concentrate, anchovy paste, acetic acid and Tabasco sauce. **No star**

Sweet passions among rations

If Terry Major-Ball needed a treat, he had to improvise – and that meant filching milk from little brother John

HOME COOKING

"I suppose it's hard to imagine a Prime Minister as a baby," says Terry Major-Ball as he recalls the food he ate during his Second World War childhood. "When John was a baby I used to pinch a little bit of his milk powder. The sweet ration was very small and often you couldn't get any. I discovered if you put three parts dry milk powder, one part cocoa and a little bit of fresh milk to wet it down you could make a thick paste. You could roll it out, cut it up and then air-dry it to make these little sweets. John never seemed to notice that a little bit of milk was gone," he laughs.

This ruse excepted, Terry Major-Ball is not nostalgic about his childhood diet. He sniffs at the notion that the spartan rationing was healthier than its modern equivalent. "That was what the Ministry of Food told us at the time. It was true in that you tended to eat more vegetables — but that was simply because there wasn't much meat about," he says.

Food at home didn't start auspiciously. His father joked that when he married, his mother "was the only lady he knew that could burn water". Things did change for the better and his mother developed into what he calls "a great cook, who made good solid English meals. She was also a marvellous pastry chef and she used to make delicious cakes.

"She would make what we called maids of honour, which were *little jam-filled cakes, usually topped with ground* almonds which during the war were topped with ground rice." His mother's shepherd's pies were "a good way of making the meat go further" and her soused herrings "a bit like rollmop herrings, but spiced more".

Another bygone snack he remembers was sheep's brains on toast.

"I don't suppose many people eat it now with the scares," he says.

As both Mr Major-Ball's parents came from north of Watford, black pudding was a regular breakfast item. His father "always had a cooked breakfast, eggs and bacon or eggs and gammon. He had that virtually every morning".

But how was this produced with a war on? "The gentleman who lived next door kept pigs. We didn't object to having them in our back garden, as in return we would get some bacon when it was killed."



Terry Major-Ball: "We were soft on animals"

Another must for Major Senior was roast dinner on a Sunday. "I remember mother was always able to make a roast because we kept chickens and rabbits. As I recall, to keep chickens you had to give up part of your egg ration and then you were allowed a certain amount of chicken meal."

Although this provided a supply of fresh meat for roasting every Sunday there was still the problem of having to slaughter the animals. "We were all a bit soft with animals in our family, so no one would kill them or eat them. The man next door kept chickens as well, so we would eat his chickens and he would eat ours. That way nobody had to eat their own animals. He did all the slaughtering."

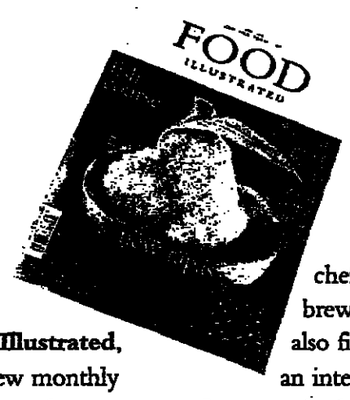
It was his father's habit of eating late at night that left the greatest impression on Mr Major-Ball's later eating habits. "My father always had a cooked supper at about 10pm and I'd have something with him. As a result, when I was first married I always used to do the same — until after 38 years of marriage my wife has got me down to a cup of tea and a sandwich."

JOE WARWICK



Young Terry and father

Eat our words.



If you love food, you'll relish **Food Illustrated**, the brand-new monthly magazine devoted to all things culinary. Among its pages you'll find fresh and innovative features, irresistible recipes and tips on entertaining, as well as articles on restaurants, chefs, bakers and brewers. You'll also find pages with an international flavour – the latest food trends from Stockholm to the streets of Miami. To savour the whole eating experience, feast your eyes each month on **Food Illustrated.**

New issue out now

Food Illustrated is published monthly by John Brown Publishing

CHAMPAGNE SUPER VALUE
Pérardel Wine Market
Calais
MOET ET CHANDON 123F.
Prices start at 63 francs a bottle.
More than 70 Champagnes in stock
plus Bourgogne, Bordeaux, Rhône, Loire, Alsace.
500 crus...more than 50,000 bottles in stock.
Awarded five stars by a leading wine writer
RUE MARCEL DORET, CALAIS
(3 minutes car ferries, 5 minutes from the tunnel autoroute
A26 Exit 3 direction Reims/Paris)

MORE FOOD & DRINK IN the times magazine
Jonathan Meades on L'Escargot, London, plus Blair's Cool Britannia

Nothing to admit but my genius

SEVEN LONG DAYS

David Bowker accepts a challenge:

this time, a week being a prima donna

If today's copy of *The Times* is still called *The Times*, the Editor's life will not be worth living. I sent him a fax last Monday to suggest it might be a better idea to rename today's edition of the paper *David Bowker on Saturday*, and that, rather than waste time talking about themselves every week, the other columnists should each write 800 words about David Bowker and how he has enriched their lives.

My fax was originally intended to be a joke. But when I thought about it, my demands did not seem unreasonable. After all, who makes you buy *The Times* every Saturday? *C'est moi, naturellement*. But does the Editor show his appreciation with flowers, chocolates and "thank you" notes? Sadly not.

I experienced the same baffling lack of recognition on Tuesday. My local amateur dramatics society is rehearsing a production of the Scottish play. Because I only joined recently, I have not been given much to do. All the juiciest roles have gone to the society's longest serving members, which is why Lady Macbeth is 100 years old and Macbeth has to use an inhaler during the fight scenes.

I play various spear-carriers, voices off and men in kilts. My only line of dialogue is: "The Queen, my Lord, is dead", which is Macbeth's cue to drone on about all our yesterdays lighting fools the way to dusty death.

Normally, I just say my line and exit. But tonight I tried to spice things up a bit. I stayed on stage until Macbeth said: "Out, out, brief candle", then walked over and gave him a pat on the back. Philip, the director, asked me what I thought I was doing.

I said: "I was improvising."

Philip went red in the face: "One does not improvise Shakespeare."

"I thought it needed livening up."

"Don't think. Just say your line and get off." I stood my ground: "I can't do that, Philip. I don't believe the messenger would be that callous. I've just told the King that his wife's dead. I think my character needs to show a bit more sympathy here."

Through clenched teeth, Philip said: "You haven't got a character. You've got one line. Either play the scene as written, or I'll find someone else who can."



"Right," I retorted. "Find someone else. Because I refuse to be directed by an amateur any longer." With this, I stormed off. Admittedly, my walk-out would have been more effective if I had had somewhere to storm off to. Instead, I had to hang around for another two hours until the rehearsal ended because Macduff was giving me a lift home.

On Friday I had lunch with my literary agent. He was excited by a book that I have written about myself called *On Being Truly Gifted*. After lunch, I went back to my agent's office and was puzzled to see that his bookshelves were crammed with books by other people. "What's all this rubbish?" I demanded.

My agent looked confused. "Books," he said. "By my other clients."

"I'm David Bowker," I reminded him. "You don't need other clients."

"I'm afraid I do," he said. "What if nobody buys your work? How will I feed my wife and children?" I was disgusted. The man was virtually admitting that his own family took priority over my career. I fired him and stormed off.

On Saturday I went to see a Lord Lloyd-Webber musical. I sat in the front row because, for a person of my talent, only the best is good enough. My fellow theatre-goers recognised me from my photograph in *The Times* but coyly pretended not to know me.

However, as the final curtain fell, the audience gave me a standing ovation. I knew they were applauding me, because no one in their right mind would have applauded the fiasco on the stage.

I turned to face my public and bowed. Then I looked over my shoulder and saw the entire cast were bowing to me. I glanced up at the Royal Box and saw Lord Lloyd-Webber himself. He, too, was applauding — but not bowing. Probably thought he was too important to bow to a mere writer. Feeling betrayed, I made a scene and stormed off.

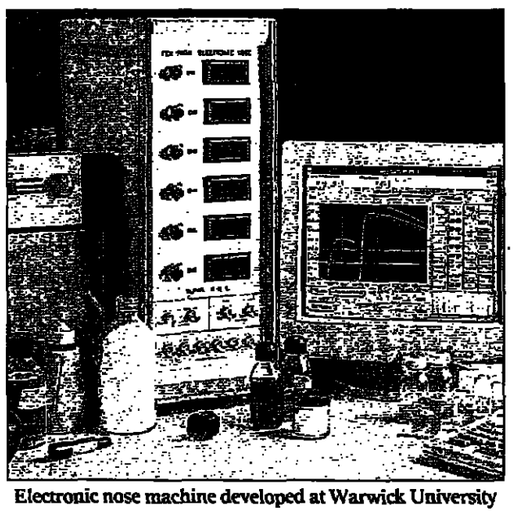
● *Jane Shilling is away*



Scientists hope to diagnose illnesses by using an electronic nose to analyse a patient's odour, **Nigel Hawkes** reports


CAMERA PRESS

The doctor says you don't smell healthy


Electronic nose machine developed at Warwick University

The breath of those with typhoid fever is said to smell like freshly baked brown bread, while diabetics have the scent of old apples. These curious facts are unlikely to be of much practical use to most of us, but they are beginning to interest doctors.

If kidney failure gives the breath an odour of stale urine, while a slightly sweet aroma around a child can suggest viral disease, why not make use of such clues to aid diagnosis? Doctors have probably done so, half-unconsciously, since medicine began. In the past few years, groups in Britain and the United States have started trying to put the method on a sounder footing. To achieve that, something more sophisticated than the human nose is needed.

Breath contains more than 400 organic chemicals produced by the body. They find their way into the breath in just the same way as alcohol, through a fine tissue called the pulmonary alveolar membrane which separates the air in the lungs from the blood circulating through the blood vessels. The ability of chemicals to cross this barrier makes possible the accuracy of the dreaded Breathalyser.

Not even the most dedicated human sniffer could detect more than a fraction of these chemicals, though a dog might do better. The answer lies in an electronic nose, trained to detect the chemicals characteristic of a particular disease, or to provide far more rapid identification of an infectious agent such as a bacterium.

At Warwick University, an electronic nose originally developed to detect off-odours in beer is proving a handy diagnostician. It has already shown it can identify ketosis, a cattle disease, from the raised levels of ketones in the cows' breath. In tests reported in *Measurement Science and Technology*, Dr Julian Gardner of Warwick and colleagues showed that it can identify the bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus* 100 per cent of the time, and *E. coli* 92 per cent of the time.

He envisages it as a quicker, easier method for identifying common pathogens in swabs taken from the ear, nose, throat or other parts of the body. "At present these have to be sent to a laboratory, grown in culture, then stained and classified," he said. "It can take one to two weeks. We should be able to do the same job in one to two hours."



Diabetics are said to have the scent of old apples, a fact that has aroused the interest of doctors

And the technology is close at hand. Already there are three British companies selling electronic noses, developed either at Warwick or at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Between 200 and 300 machines are sold every year, Dr Gardner said, with the food and drink industry being the biggest customer.

Electronic noses use an array of polymer-based sensors, whose electrical resistance changes when they detect a particular chemical. They are "trained" using a neural net, a computer based loosely on the architecture of the human brain. Within a few years, Dr Gardner expects the noses to be able to detect from half a dozen to a dozen common pathogens, and to distinguish between bacterial and fungal infections. He also expects them to be on sale at a price that a GP's surgery could afford — say £1,000.

Diagnosing disease from a patient's breath might be trickier, he admitted. "We succeeded with the cows because they have a very predictable diet," he said. "But with a patient who had been drinking, or eating curries, it would obviously be harder. It might work better in a hospital, where diet can be controlled."

In Inverness, Dr George Dodd, a former head of the Warwick unit, hopes to use an electronic nose to diagnose schizophrenia, building on work by Dr Ian Glen and colleagues in the Highland Psychiatric Research Group who have shown success with a skin test for the disease. The assumption is that schizophrenia is caused by abnormal fatty acids in the membranes surrounding the brain cells. The group, backed by Scotia Pharmaceuticals, has shown that schizophrenics are deficient in two fatty acids — arachidonic and docosahexaenoic. If they are missing, said Dr Glen, they must have gone somewhere, and it is a reasonable bet that they were being oxidised and going into the breath. If so, they ought in theory to be detectable as breakdown products.

Some years ago, Professor Michael Phillips of New York Medical College used chemical analysis to show that the breath of schizophrenics contains significantly higher levels of pentane and carbon disulphide than controls. He examined breath samples from 25 schizophrenics, 26 people with other mental illnesses and 38 normal people. He found he could successfully distinguish 20 out of the 25 schizophrenics by this test alone. "To my great surprise, there is a reasonable separation between people with schizophrenia and those without," he said.

Professor Phillips believes that one day people will go for "breathograms" to screen them for illnesses ranging from cancer to gastric ulcers. Dr Gardner says that diagnosing a cancer through the breath may be over-ambitious, but monitoring its progress during treatment might be possible quite soon.

FACTS AND FIGURES

■ The creature with the most acute sense of smell is the emperor moth. It can detect a virgin female at 6.8 miles (11km). There is also evidence to suggest that the polar bear can detect seals from 40 miles (64km) away and has the most highly developed sense of smell of the bear family. Dogs have 290 million more smelling cells than humans.

■ Top turn-on smells for women: liquorice, cucumber, baby powder. A survey in Chicago last year concluded that the smell of liquorice increased blood flow to sexual areas by 14 per cent (10 per cent is considered "significant arousal").

■ Top turn-on smells for men: lavender, vanilla, strawberry, oriental spice.

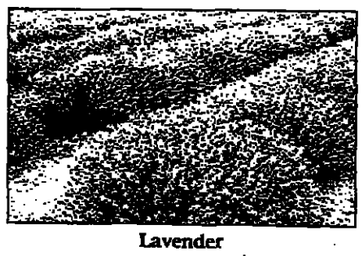
■ A woman's sense of smell is better than a man's.

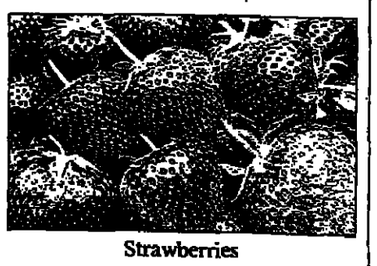
■ Smells can help you remember events from more than 50 years ago. This is because smell is controlled by a primitive section of the brain and produces a much stronger recall than photographs.

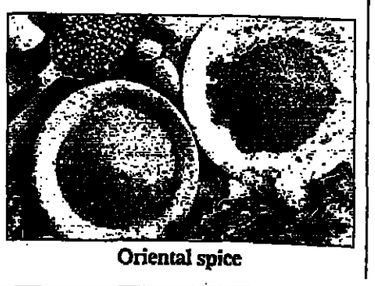
■ Nerve cells inside the nose are capable of detecting more than 10,000 chemical smells.

DEBORAH KING

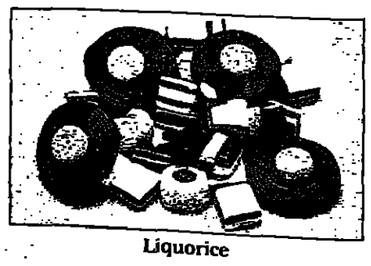
TURN ONS **FOR MEN**

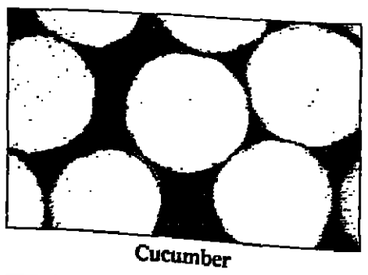

Lavender

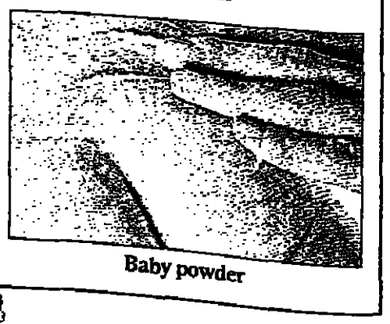

Strawberries


Oriental spice

TURN ONS **FOR WOMEN**


Liquorice


Cucumber


Baby powder

I've got it on the nose

Many people think it is pretentious to sniff wine. It is not. It is essential. The mistaken assumption that aroma and bouquet are for wine bores is all part of an underestimation of the power of the nose. Wine experts gather more information with their nostrils than they do with their taste-buds.

Indeed, so highly tuned is my own sense of smell that, after correctly identifying a wine from a glass, I can identify which of my assembled guests has drunk out of it. My sister Miranda and I used to enliven the dreary business of washing up after a dinner party by me sniffing out which glass was whose.

It is hard to say quite when I realised that my sense of smell was my *tour de force*. Certainly as a child my earliest memories are linked to smell. The scent of my mother's superb cooking, the heady scent of the Iceberg climbing rose that I sat opposite while I read my first book aged four, the peculiarly green tomato fug of the hothouse, where I could filch ripened tomatoes straight from the vine.

Looking back, I can see it was no coincidence that my mother always asked me to season her soups and to make the salad dressings and not my less organoleptically skilled brother or sister.

Most of us make little use of our noses. With survival no longer dependent on our ability to forage for food, smell has been demoted to the lowest division of our senses.


Wine experts need their noses

However, the olfactory bulb, a peanut-sized part of the brain directly above the nose in the centre of the forehead, is capable of remarkable things. It is by receiving information, interpreting it and then passing it on to the cerebral cortex for further examination, that we are capable of assessing the individual and collective orchestra of smells in, say, a greatly aged vintage red wine; and that we are capable of detecting as little as one part in a hundred million billion. Life can be so much more fun if we revel in our ability to smell.

Like other mothers I can tell you correctly, blindfolded, which child was wearing what clothes by smell. Babies and most children tend to smell sweet and often milky until they reach puberty. And mothers with a heightened sense of smell soon learn that any change in this odour needs watching.

I remember my eldest daughter at the age of two and a half developing a weird, almost oniony smell that lingered for weeks with no obvious reason — until she came down with chicken pox, a childhood illness that can take three weeks to incubate. By the time our younger daughter was hatching it some years later, I had the smell mentally tagged and knew what we were in for. Any slight sour note emanating from our three children is always an accurate harbinger of illness ahead.

If you feel you have lost the art of smell, don't worry: the more you use it the more accurate it gets. Start on something like a ripe French cheese and compare it, blind, with a mild cheddar. To begin with you may not be able to smell the cheddar at all. But after a week or so its delicate flavour will be etched on your brain.

Along with many other mental skills, it is possible to have a genetic natural ability to smell well. I suspect that the DNA of tea-tasters, perfume "noses" and wine specialists may well show a similar genetic propensity to sniff with skill.

The perfume industry plays up the evocative aspect of scent. I can instantly recall the odour of my boarding-school cloakroom, a combination of linseed oil and Vaseline-laced lacrosse sticks, muddy boots and dirty coconut mats.

A much happier smell memory is that of my mother leaning over my bed when I was a little girl to kiss me goodnight, all dressed up to go out with my father and wearing a perfume called Rêve d'Or, discontinued in the 1950s.

Years later I was helping my parents move house and my mother had discovered a forgotten bottle. I had not smelt it for years — but I recognised it immediately.

JANE MACQUITTY
The Times wine correspondent

Go native and bring back life to your garden

British plants will attract creatures and ensure your garden thrives, says Stephen Anderton

DES JENSON



The Duchess of Hamilton with a model of the Chelsea Flower Show exhibit

It is too easy to think that committed eco-gardeners belong to the old-tyres-and-carpet school of gardening. How refreshing it was, then, to go recently to a lecture by Flora for Fauna, the charity run by the Duchess of Hamilton, which seeks to push us gardeners into growing more native plants.

Tyres were never mentioned. Carpets didn't figure at all. Instead, we were treated to a preview of a grand, sophisticated, classical pavilion 20ft tall, which is to be the focus of Christie's Chelsea Show garden this year. The tower has been designed by George Carter to be an Empire State of wildlife, and a potential home to dozens of species.

Every ledge, aperture, overhang and underhang is designed to welcome something. Lattice walls and internal radial strutwork offer maximum opportunities for nesting.

In the octagonal gazebo which forms the base of the tower, there are nest boxes everywhere, in and out, to attract the likes of pied wagtails, spotted fly-catchers and swallows.

On the middle deck, tree sparrows are expected — a species whose numbers have fallen by 94 per cent in the past 25 years.

Up in the top deck, there will be suitable nesting places for martins and swifts, and a roost for pipistrelle bats. Houses are generally too well made nowadays for bats to get in and make a home, but this tower will be tailor-made for both kinds of pipistrelles.

It is a clever building. The principle it proposes, that a sophisticated garden feature can also be an efficient haven for wildlife, is one which deserves to be applied more widely to all garden buildings.

But why bother? Aren't bird freaks just as single-minded, and even short-sighted, about their own agenda as gardeners are about gardening? Do we really want to grow native plants in gardens just for the sake of the wildlife?

Flora for Fauna's answer is straightforward. It does not wish to ban non-native or highly-bred plants. But it wants us to use as many natives as we can. Every native flower or tree helps in the larger conservation picture.

Gardens have a major role to play in conservation. They cover more than a million acres in Britain today. According to Chris Mead, director of the British Trust for Ornithology, gardens are now a vital sanctuary for wildlife, in contrast to the green desert of monocultures that is the modern agricultural landscape.

The practical value of growing natives in gardens is twofold. From a gardener's point of view, having some native trees or shrubs makes a garden look as if it belongs to its local area, and stops it looking like an off-the-peg garden centre display. More importantly, native species support native flora in a more efficient way than exotic introductions. They have grown up together for thousands of years. No holly, no holly blue butterfly; no honeysuckle, no white admiral; no hops or nettles, no comma butterfly.

When this kind of interaction works, there is sufficient of the right food, at the right time, to keep every species going. The right flower feeds the right insects which feed the right birds and bats. If birds, which are near the top of the food chain, are doing well, then the chances are that so is everything else lower down.

Of course nature is cruel. There has to be excess of one species for another to eat. But in the long run a balance is struck. How difficult it is to get a conservationist to call any creature bad. Chris Mead, for instance, admits that magpies have increased by three times in the past 20 years, and that they are serial killers of small birds and fledgelings: "But only in May, when they are feeding their own young." He recommends locking a shed window open, so birds can nest inside where magpies will not feel safe. At worst, nests can be given a large-gauge wire netting cage.

Mr Mead regards the planting of natives as vital to the health of gardens generally, since even beneficial insects, useful to gardeners, are part of the food chain.

If a non-native "London" plane supports almost no native insect life in Britain, but a common oak can support 284 insect species, doesn't it make sense to plant a high percentage of oak? Even the hawthorn supports more than 149 insect species. And insects are what birds need.

Almost all birds rely on the protein provided by insects to rear viable offspring. Haven't we all said to some child, "Oh, all right, leave your cabbage, leave your rice, but you've got to eat the meat. Or there's no pudding." In a fledgling's case it's life, not pudding, that is at stake when protein fails.

Next time you wage the battle of the bolognese, think about squeezing a few natives into the garden. Help to tip the balance. It is heartening to see how many natives are really good garden plants already.

NATIVE PLANTS

■ **Native plants especially useful to wildlife:**
Trees: oak, hornbeam, small-leaved lime, birch, goat willow, grey willow, hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, box, yew.
Shrubs: guelder rose, wayfaring tree, spindle, dogwood, dog rose, ivy, old man's beard.
Herbaceous plants: teasle, yellow flag iris, oxeye daisy, cow parsley, nettle, foxglove, purple loosestrife, red campion, soapwort, columbine, musk mallow, cornflower, scabious, marjoram, common violet, primrose, cowslip, wild strawberry, male and lady ferns.

■ **Numbers of insect species associated with native trees:** oak 284, willow 266, birch 229, hawthorn 149, blackthorn 109, Scots pine 91, alder 90, elm 82, hazel 73, beech 64, ash 41, lime 31.

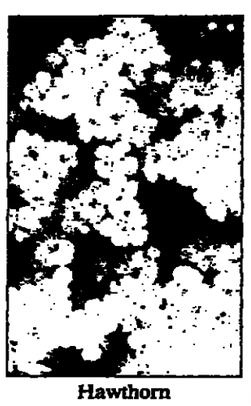
■ **Native plants suitable to your area:** there is now a database of plants native to your area according to post code on the Internet (http://fff.nhm.ac.uk/fff/). The Postcode Plants Database is a joint venture between Flora for Fauna, the Natural History Museum and the Royal Mail.

■ **Boxes for birds, bats, insects, hedgehogs etc:** a wide range of high-quality "woodcrete" nest boxes is available from Jacobi Jayne & Co, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4LW. Freefone 0800 072 0130 for details.

■ **Flora for Fauna, The Linnaean Society of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1V 0LQ (0171-351 4266)**



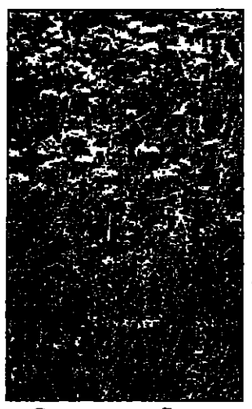
Foxglove



Hawthorn



Mixed double cornflower



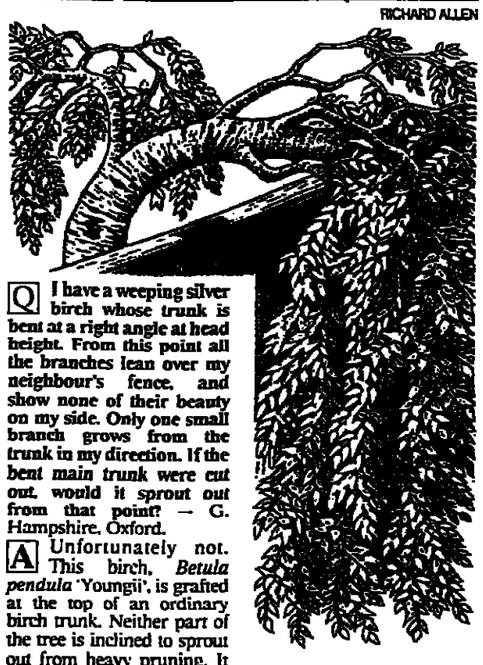
Common cornflower



Red campion

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

RICHARD ALLEN



Q I have a weeping silver birch whose trunk is bent at a right angle at head height. From this point all the branches lean over my neighbour's fence, and show none of their beauty on my side. Only one small branch grows from the trunk in my direction. If the bent main trunk were cut out, would it sprout out from that point? — G. Hampshire, Oxford.

A Unfortunately not. This birch, *Betula pendula* 'Youngii', is grafted at the top of an ordinary birch trunk. Neither part of the tree is inclined to sprout out from heavy pruning. It should have been planted with its best face towards you in the first place, or the errant branches nipped back when young to encourage the energy of the plant into the branch on your side.

There is not much you can do about it now. Birch roots are greedy and shallow too; it would not be easy to compromise by putting a clematis or rose into it. So the best advice is to live with it or scrap it.

Q Our 18-year-old weeping birch has grown out over a path and needs clipping back from time to time. This year for the first time every twig which has been cut continues to "weep". Apart from inviting children in to see transpiration at work, is there anything I should do to prevent this? Will the tree suffer? Is this why it is called a "weeping" birch?
R.A.Palmer, Pickering, North Yorkshire.

A The sap always rises early in birches, and in mild spells in mild springs it can rise even earlier. Sizeable late cuts will then bleed sap, not water, which weakens the tree and can result in the branch dying back. Transpiration, by the way, is breathing through the leaves; this is just bleeding. The moral is to cut earlier in the spring, or in late winter. The birch is said to weep, of course, because it hangs its branches down.

The best forms of the silver birch *Betula pendula* weep naturally and gracefully. More formal in its weeping habit is the form 'Tristis' which still makes a very large tree. The form 'Youngii' is the one usually found in domestic gardens, and it makes a small, flat-topped tree, weeping congestedly rather than gracefully.

Henry Mason of Southampton has written to tell me of hornbeams pruned this year in January, whose sap, bleeding from wounds less than two inches across, produced icicles 3in long. I saw icicles 18in long on bleeding sycamores in Clapham a few years ago. Bleeding of this kind is not stopped by painting the wound. It is like trying to mend a hole in a hose pipe with emulsion paint.

Q Last autumn I put 20 *Iris reticulata* 'Cantab' in containers and they have flowered successfully. I did the same thing a few years ago and they never flowered again after the first year. Should I lift the bulbs and store them, and then replant next autumn? — H. Cobb, Worcester.

A The little spring-flowering bulbous irises like purple *Iris reticulata*, its blue form 'Cantab', and the yellow *Iris danfordiae*, all tend to break up into lots of little bulblets after flowering. Assuming they survive, it can take years for them to build up to flowering again. In pots and containers the long, floppy, narrow leaves tend to fall over and snap long before they have properly fed the bulbs.

The answer is to plant the bulbs deeply, as much as 6in down. This seems to stop them breaking up, but on heavier soils it can also make them rot. When planting containers, it is best to regard them as a one-crop flower, and simply plant new bulbs each year. They are cheap enough.

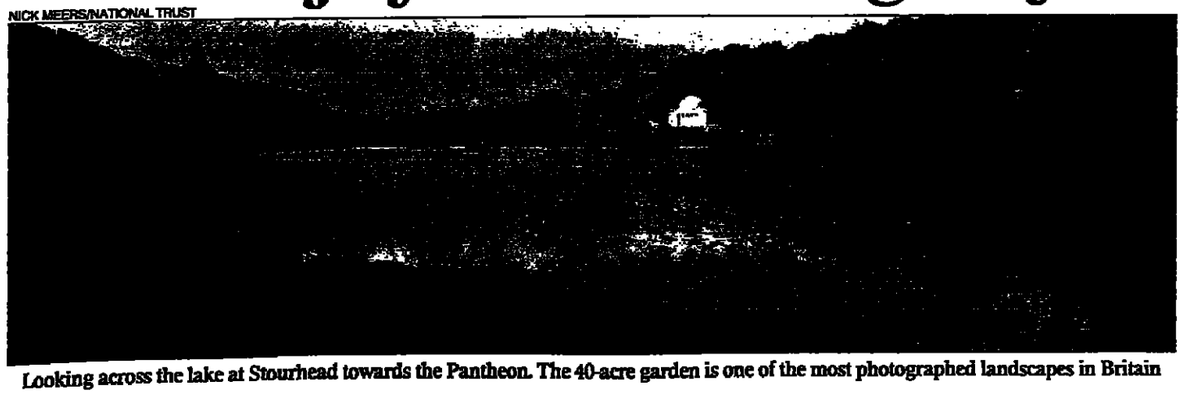
● *Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.*



Where to enjoy a blaze of glory

GARDENS TO VISIT

NICK MEERS/NATIONAL TRUST



Looking across the lake at Stourhead towards the Pantheon. The 40-acre garden is one of the most photographed landscapes in Britain

■ **Stourhead, Stourton, Warminster**
(01747 840904) Three miles northwest of Mere. Open daily 9am-7pm. £4.40.
THE rhododendrons which now blaze in spring were not part of the 18th-century plan by Henry Hoare and some would say that they get in the way of the purity of the original design, but they are popular with visitors.

The 40 acres centre on a lake created by damming the river Stour and so making what must be one of the most photographed landscapes in Britain. There is a large grotto with a bubbling spring and a hirsute river god beside one of the pools; a Temple of Apollo; a Temple of Flora; a Pantheon with sculptures inside and a stone bridge.

In autumn there is the fire of Japanese maples and in the rest of the year plenty of good trees — Wellingtonias, thujas, tulip trees, a handkerchief tree and Himalayan Whitebeam — some of which were brought in by Richard Colt Hoare whose grandfather began the Stourhead landscape after his Grand Tour.

■ **High Beeches, Handcross, West Sussex**
(01444 400589) One mile east of the A23 at Handcross. Open until June 30, 1-5pm. Closed Wednesdays. Open Monday, April 13, 10.30am-5pm for a daffodil day in aid of Marie Curie cancer care. For further opening times throughout the year please ring number above. Price £3.50, children under-14 free.
THE first thing to say about High Beeches is that there aren't any — they blew down in the 1987 storm. But the Boscawens (whose family made Brodick and Tregothnan gardens) have replanted one area with beeches and the rest of the garden has a collection of unusual trees and shrubs.

These are shown off to their best in High Beeches' spectacular setting: a great sweeping slope of small valleys and streams and a series of ponds. It is ten years since the garden was opened to the public, but it is making a name for itself partly because of the fine collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, many of them planted by the Loder family who owned High Beeches before the Boscawens and was responsible for the renowned rhododendron garden in the area, Leonardslee. There is a tree trail with a huge variety of oaks and rare trees, including *Quercus oxyodon* and a *Stewartia rostrata*. The garden holds the national collection of stewartia trees.

■ **Exbury Gardens, Southampton**
(01703 899422) Open every day until October 10-5.30. For prices, which vary, and further information please telephone.
EXBURY is a byword for azaleas and rhododendrons, and May is one of the most popular times to visit. The garden was begun by Lionel de Rothschild in 1919 and his expert work is continued today by Edmund de Rothschild who regularly exhibits at the RHS. The 200 acres are irrigated by a couple of natural springs and 20 miles of specialist piping which keep the 10,227 trees and shrubs in good condition despite our increasingly unpredictable climate.

JANE OWEN



■ Plant runner beans in 3in pots of general-purpose compost under glass, for planting out next month. The stringless variety Galaxy, from Unwins, is said to be an especially reliable cropper, even in dry or cold years.

■ Watch for mice in greenhouses. They will quickly take beans and sweet peas.

■ Sow outdoors, in rows where they are to grow, peas, broad beans, cauliflowers, brussels sprouts, onions, turnips, beetroot and parsnips. Leeks can be sown in a short nursery row (or pot), for planting out deeply in rows later on.

■ Cut down to within a few inches of the ground the old stems of hardy fuchsias such as *Fuchsia magellanica*, and its varieties *var. molinae* ('Alba'), 'Tricolor' and 'Riccartonii'. Feed well, and in dry areas give a generous mulch of old compost or manure.

■ Sow hardy annuals such as calendula, nasturtium, lavateras and cornflowers in shallow drills or patches where they are intended to flower. They are reliable and fast to germinate, and a good choice with which to interest children in growing flowers. Studies at Cambridge University Botanic Garden have shown that single varieties usually offer more nectar to insects, and that doubles are not surprisingly often totally inaccessible to insects.

■ Cut back last year's stems of *Hydrangea paniculata* to two pairs of strong buds. The upper pair will produce this year's shoots, ending in creamy panicles of flowers. The lower pair may also shoot, but later; they are an insurance against late frosts.

■ Plant onion sets, 6in apart each way, and pushed into the soil until just the tip shows.

To call his radio programme 'Bruno at the Mill House', Bruno Brookes had to find a home to match, writes **Jane Owen**

CHRIS HARRIS





One of the terracotta figures "which may be worth a lot of money" stands sentinel on the river (left). Bruno Brookes, former Radio 1 DJ, poses on the forsythia walk in his mill house garden which he potters around at weekends

Just milling about on the airwaves

Bruno Brookes is the former Radio 1 DJ who was a boyfriend of Anthea Turner. Now he runs a media company and broadcasts, live, from his mill house set in 20 acres of Berkshire garden.

Brookes is wearing a perfectly ironed, silky red shirt and yellow trousers. The suggestion that we go into the garden seems to alarm him. "You want to do the interview in the garden? I'll have to put my boots on," he says. "It isn't too muddy," I say, having spent a while wandering around his garden while he chatted to his media school students. "Yes it is," he says, looking at my boots.

We agree to do the interview in the kitchen where there is no carpet to ruin and where part of the garden is visible through large picture windows.

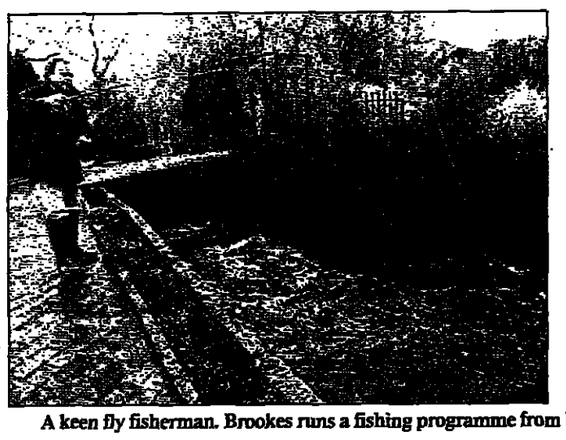
The garden runs on either side of the Kennet, a few rods from the fish farm which was recently almost wiped out by an unknown pollutant. Brookes's part of the Kennet, which criss-crosses his property, is unaffected. Weeping willows tickle the river's surface and there are eucalyptus, beech and an orchard of plums, pears, damsons and apples.

Two narrow streams branch off from the Kennet at the back of the house, creating a small island which has been made into a brick terrace between the house and the informal, meadow-like garden.

On the island there are white concrete tables and a barbeque on wheels. Pinks dot the narrow bed along the millstream, with ivy, periwinkle and daffs and, on the opposite bank, knobs of pink bergenia give a little colour. Concrete window boxes planted with dwarf conifers guard one of the terraces between the house and river.

Modest humpback bridges link the house to the island terrace. At the end of one of the bridges stands a wrought iron gate with stylised leaves curling up from a pot.

Beyond the wrought iron gate is a forsythia walk which ends in a grassed area. This was covered with brambles and reeds until a year ago when Brookes started to mow much more regularly. A wooden stage has been built in the grassy area. It is there to elevate visiting rock bands. No garden should be without one.





A keen fly fisherman. Brookes runs a fishing programme from home (left) and his grandfather, Schooner, helps in the garden

ME AND MY GARDEN: BRUNO BROOKES

Blood-red fingers of dogwood surround a large pond where moorhens, ducks and geese potter, while a pair of swans graze on the meadow. Beyond is a paddock with two mares (Mrs Brookes is into dressage) and then the land goes into a bosky area of mossy logs, ferns and a sleeper bridge over the fast-running river.

Near the house two full-size terracotta female figures that look as if they have danced straight out of the *Ramayana* have been placed on either side of the river. These were left by the last owner, a dealer in such things, and Brookes says he knows little about them except that they may be worth a lot of money. A third exotic-looking statue was taken by a previous owner to one of the big auction houses which took one look at it and said it must be stolen from India. Brookes intends to contact the Indian High Commission about it when he has the time.

Since his departure from Radio 1 three years ago — no one knows if he was pushed or if he walked — Brookes has been busy. He owns an independent radio and television company which supplies shows to stations around the country, and he has a broadcasting school which runs two-day courses.

"It is amazing that we have grown as we have when we are out here in Hungerford and nowhere near London. I'm the sort of person who gets bored just presenting radio shows. I am an opportunist. My long-term objective is to build a brand. We also do corporate events, team building, info-tainment and edu-tainment," says Brookes, who employs 13 full-time staff.

"At Radio 1, I was involved in five or six radio shows a week and displaying myself on stage after a few Bacardis. I took six months off because I was so knackered. I'd always wanted to move to the country for the quality of life."

Not any old bucolic spot, though. Brookes had already decided on the name of the show he wanted to broadcast and that limited his house hunt. "Because I wanted to call the show 'Bruno at the Mill House' I wanted to find a mill house. I tried to buy a mill house five miles upstream but the sale fell through a month before I was due on air. The mill house gives me lots of different things to talk about."

However, the prospect of having to maintain the garden almost put Brookes off buying the mill house. He has since come round. "It is a hobby for me at weekends. It is my way of keeping fit. In the summer there's a hell of a lot to do," he says. He reckons he is a changed man — from an overworked insomniac, over-travelled performer to one who stars, performs and earns from picturesque water meadows in Berkshire.

He has become a keen fly fisherman and even runs a fishing programme from his back door. The taming qualities of his country surroundings affect all visitors, he says.

"Rock stars come down here and you culturally change them in the space of an hour by putting a fishing rod in their hands, even though they were on stage at Wembley the night before."

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Fabulous fuchsias: 36 plants for only £14.98



Readers of *The Times* are offered a specially selected collection of three styles of fuchsias, one of the most superb garden plants. The double varieties may be grown as bushes or standards; the trailing species are ideal as ground cover, or in hanging baskets and patio tubs; and the hardy fuchsias, which manage to survive our winters, grow bigger and better year after year.

All plants are module grown and packed in protective cartons. Each pack contains 12 plants and costs £7.99 per pack including postage. Alternatively, choose any three packs for the price of two (that is 36 plants for only £14.98).

THE PACKS CONTAIN:

- **Double:** 3 Dark Eyes (red/purple), 3 Swingtime (red/white), 3 Pink Galore (soft pink), 3 Lena (pale pink/purple).
- **Trailing:** 4 Bright Eyes (red/purple), 4 Annabel (red/white), 4 Southgate (soft pink).
- **Hardy:** 3 Brutus (deep purple/cerise), 3 Lena (pale pink/purple), 3 Lady Thumb (cerise/white), 3 Tom Thumb (red/purple centre).

The Times Fuchsias Offer

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) .....

Address .....

.....

Post Code .....

I enclose a cheque/postal order(s) made payable to: *The Times* Fuchsias Offer FT744.

Value ..... No .....

Please write name and address on back of all cheques. Or debit my Access/Visa card number.

Print Name ..... Expiry Date .....

Signature ..... Date .....

Send coupon and remittance to: *The Times* Fuchsias Offer, FT744, PO Box 9, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 6EB.

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in UK only. If despatched please return goods within seven days of receipt for full refund. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. The *Times* cannot be held responsible for returned goods lost in transit. Offer subject to availability. You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

	CODE	PLEASE SEND ME:	QTY	A	B	C	£PER ITEM	TOTALS
A	7249-29	12 Trailing Fuchsias					£7.99	
B	7247-29	12 Hardy Fuchsias					£7.99	
C	7289-02	12 Double Fuchsias					£7.99	
D		Any 3 collections for the price of two					£14.98	

Prices include postage and packing. TOTAL COST

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01775 710 000 (24 HOURS)

CHANGING TIMES

We really like it here, mum

Sue Corbett picks the best child-friendly gardens – from Easter egg hunts to giant chessboards

As many parents know to their cost, William Brown and Violet Elizabeth Bott are alive and well and causing havoc in a garden near you — which is something for the childless to bear in mind if they invite young nephews and nieces to visit for the Easter weekend.

The scale of the problem is evident when you talk to the head gardener of a lush and exotically stocked public garden in the West Country. Ask him about his child visitors and he says he hopes he and his garden can remain anonymous because "the last thing we want is to be seen as a child-friendly garden". He happily takes school parties round the garden, and he's only too pleased if parents go round with their children.

But the children he fears are the ones who, the minute the family comes in, start picking the flowers near the entrance and follow this up by sprinting off in the opposite direction from their parents.

Problem children clearly do not trouble the National Trust's gardeners over-much. Maybe it's because families who join the Trust together stay together (on the way round the gardens at least), or it could be that the Trust's entrance fees ensure that parents looking for a place for children to let off steam simply go to the park.

Perhaps the adventure playgrounds in 14 of the Trust's properties, from Lanhydrock in Cornwall, to Beningborough Hall in North Yorkshire, have something to do with it, too.

The Trust is stepping up its nurturing of the young visitor by introducing a new "child" category of membership (£14 a year) for children under 12.

Easter egg trails are a popular way for children to familiarise themselves with National Trust gardens. At Erdig, near Wrexham, the Easter egg trail winds its way around the garden from Good Friday until Easter Monday, noon until 4pm.

At Treebah Garden, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth, Cornwall (01326 250448), there will be Easter egg trails with prizes, daily, from Maundy Thursday until April 26. This is in addition to the regular Treebah trail, with its Tarzan's Camp and ariel slide, which sends children scurrying around the garden looking for camellias, bamboo, gunnera and tree ferns in pursuit of a small reward.



A child plays with a giant chess set at Burton Agnes Hall, North Yorkshire

> Easter egg trails are a good way of introducing children to the garden

Extra children's events take place at Treebah in half-term week, October 26-30. A jungle garden features among the eight acres at Burton Agnes Hall, Driffield, North Yorkshire (01262 490324). There are also snakes in the unusual form of a giant game of Snakes and Ladders, which, together with a giant chessboard and a maze, keeps young visitors occupied for long periods.

Other Trust events this year include children's garden tours at Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire on Thursday, May 28, and Saturday, October 17.

At Montacute House, in Somerset, there will be a guided tour of the garden for children on June 25. "A Walk Around the Borders" follows on Sunday, September 20, and "Autumn Colours Park and Garden" on Sunday, November 8, both led by the head gardener.

A garden tour for children takes place at the Trust's Lacock Abbey near Chippenham, Wiltshire, on Wednesdays, April 8 and May 13 at 11am, and throughout the year Blue Peter badgeholders have free entry to the Abbey and museum.

"Garden Reflection" is an event for children at Fountains Abbey, Ripon, North Yorkshire, on Sunday, May 3, 11am to 6pm. At the Trust's Claremont Landscape Garden, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, there will be children's activities every Thursday in August, 11am to 1pm.

Gardens of interest to children include Mary Wondrausch's at The Pottery, Brickfields, Compton, Surrey (01483 414097 open under the NGS on Sunday, June 28). Friars Court and Clanfield Court, Oxfordshire (01367 810206, open under the NGS on Sunday afternoons, June 7 and August 23) have working displays on alternative energy and Stanley House Farm, Milwich, Staffordshire (01889 502306, open under the NGS on Sunday afternoons, May 24 and June 21) has a Laburnum Tunnel, ponds and teas organised by the local branch of the NSPCC.

See also the RHS Gardeners' Yearbook 1998, which lists gardens of interest to children (Dorling Kindersley, £9.99). Child-friendly gardens are listed in the Trust's free Children Welcome Information Pack (0181-315 1111).

- *Worms, Wellies and Windowboxes: Instant Gardening, an RHS Children's pack by Sue Phillips, published by Henderson at £3.99.*
- *Take advice on poisonous plants and other dangers such as ponds from the Child Accident Prevention Trust's Garden Safety leaflet. Send an sae to the Trust at Clerks Court, 18-20 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU (0171-608 3828).*

هذا من الأصل

YOU CAN LIE DOWN AND RELAX AGAIN

Need help to get in or out of the bath or - worse - have had to stop bathing altogether? Then all your problems are over. The unique Bath Bubble, with its easy to use hand control, gently lowers you all the way to the bottom of your bath.

BATH THE 'UNIQUE' NEW BATH BUBBLE!

After a long relaxing soak, slowly re-inflate the Bath Bubble to raise you gently out.

- No bulky built-in chair or unsightly fixings.
- Suits all types of baths, even smaller ones.
- Safe, quick and easy to use - requires no installation.
- Pack it in its handy travel bag and take it with you anywhere.

AWARD WINNING DESIGN

For FREE information or advice call on FREEPHONE 0800 132061

AQUABILITY EASY SAFE BATHING

Or write to: AQUABILITY (UK) Ltd, FREEPOST 3071, Aldershot GU11 2BR

COUNTAX AT THE CUTTING EDGE

Tractors from 13HP to 20HP

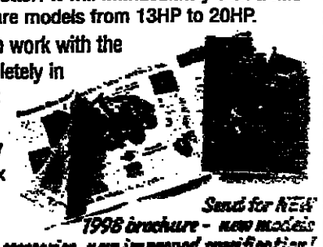


Countax is Britain's best selling garden tractor - preferred by British gardeners because it is both a fine lawnmower AND a tough roughcutter! It will immaculately trim a fine lawn and then go straight on to tame the roughest paddock. There are models from 13HP to 20HP.

The quiet and smooth Interactive Blade System cutter is designed to work with the unbeatable Countax powered grass collector, which picks up completely in any weather and NEVER ever clogs! Choose this system if you want all weather performance and a desirable, traditional striped finish!

Alternatively choose a Countax mulching cutter system which finely chops and recycles cuttings, returning them to the turf. The Countax mulcher outperforms all rivals and beats their prices. Choose it for collection-free mowing and a greener lawn in times of drought.

With Countax you can have either, or BOTH!



Send for NEW 1998 brochure - new models, new accessories, new improved specification!

Garden Machinery Association "Best Ride-On Mower" 1991, 1995, 1997

"Independent 100" fastest growing independent companies 1992, 1993, 1994 & 1995

www.countax.com

Send to Countax, FREEPOST, Great Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4BR POWERED BY

Name Address

Postcode Tel

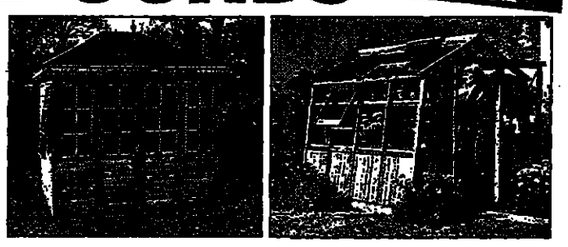
FREE 0500 279927

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
TELEPHONE ZOE HOSKINS ON 0171 680 6116
OR FAX ON 0171 782 7930

QUALITY TIMBER BUILDINGS

POUNDS

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY & INSTALLATION SERVICE



SHEDS, WORKSHOPS, SUMMERHOUSES, GAZEBOS, PLAYHOUSES, GARAGES, GREENHOUSES, ETC, ETC.

- Buy direct from the factory
- No payment before delivery
- Quality built on 40 years experience
- First because they last

RING FOR FREE CATALOGUE 01299 266337 (24 hrs)

POUNDS Dept T, COPPICE GATE, LYE HEAD, BEWDLEY, WORCS. DY12 2UX

"NATURE PAINTS THE BEST PART OF THE PICTURE."
Ralph Waldo Emerson



JOHN DEERE REFINES IT.

New John Deere Mulching Mowers

The new John Deere mulching mowers cut up to one third off your mowing time, thus you'll find hard work disappears as quickly as your grass.

See your John Deere dealer today.

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE

For a brochure and your coupon for a FREE John Deere Soil Tester Kit post to:

FREEPOST John Deere Ltd.
Langar, Nottingham,
NG13 9HT

Name
Address

JUST ZAPP!

YOUR GARAGE DOORS OPEN

FREE FITTING LIMITED OFFER



POWERED BY SOMFY MOTORS

Imagine the convenience and security of being able to open your garage doors without having to get out of your car.

Guardian's roller shutter garage doors are fully automatic and are operated by a remote, hand held controller.

- Made from tough, maintenance- free aluminium.
- Durable stove-enamelled finish.
- In a range of colours.
- Automatic Locking.
- Tailor made for a perfect fit.
- Fully installed by Guardian's own craftsmen.
- High Security.

FOR A FREE BROCHURE RING
01484 461010 NORTH 0171 581 4443 SOUTH

OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION

FREEPOST · SEND TODAY · NO STAMP REQUIRED

Post to: GUARDIAN GARAGE DOORS, FREEPOST, HF3 118, HUDDERSFIELD, HD3 3LL T11/4/98

MR/MRS/MS
TELEPHONE
ADDRESS
POSTCODE

GUARDIAN YOUR PROPERTY PROTECTOR

FERNS & FOUNTAINS

VICTORIAN FERN BORDER COLLECTION

10 Ferns giving a wide variation of fronds and including 5 species which are evergreens.

SPECIAL OFFER £27 inc carriage

Send 4 1st class stamps for catalogue: 01377 - 254487 or write to THE FERN SPECIALISTS CULAG, NAFFERTON, DRIFFIELD, YO25 0LF

PRIVATE ROADS

The essential book on the law for residents. Second edition now available. Maintenance, parking, rights of way and much more.

TEL: 01372 742372
FAX: 01372 721900

NETS! NETS! NETS!

ALUMINIUM FRUIT CAGES

Garden & Pond Netting • Bird Proofing
Bean Supports • Cricket Grids
Tennis Nets • Ground Cover & Fleece

KNOWLE NETS Tel: 01308 424342

GROW 98

The Gardening Experience

Quality Plants & Garden Products for sale
Specialist Nurseries • Show Gardens
Floral Displays • Indoor Event

Gardeners welcome !

Sandown Exhibition Centre
High Street, Esher, Surrey

Saturday 18 April 9am-6pm
Sunday 19 April 9am-5pm
£3.50 • Over 60/Under 16 £2
Free Parking • Restaurant

Protech Promotions Ltd 01708 455907

TRIM AND MOW THE EASY WAY



The Hard Way!

Forget the hard work of hand-held strimmers, let the unique wheel mounted DR Trimmer/Mower do the work for you.

It has the power and manoeuvrability to trim and mow anywhere.

Handling tough and awkward jobs like grass or bracken up to 3ft high - even when wet and on slopes up to 30°.

DR® TRIMMER/MOWER

For brochure, stockists and special offer details contact: Dept. TT, Charlwoods' Red Machinery Ltd., FREEPOST, (GU2389), Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1BR. Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661288.

TRIMS AND MOWS IN ONE

CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE 01428 661222 (24 HRS)



PROVEN BY INDEPENDENT TEST RESULTS

ONLY AFFECTS CATS 24hr PROTECTION

How does Catwatch differ from its competitors? It works!

Catwatch - Best Buy in: Gardens Answers - Your Garden, BBC Gardeners World - Daily Express - Practical Publishing

Free brochure & independent test pack

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss
Address
Postcode

RERTT11149 Concept Research Brochure Services 17 Upper King St. Royston, Herts SG8 9AZ

Brochure Hotline 01763 244266

HOMES & GARDENS ALSO APPEARS ON PAGE 12

Scalewatcher

The Simple Solution to Hard Water



CLEARS OLD SCALE
PREVENTS NEW SCALE
EASY DIY FIT
SAVES MONEY
GUARANTEED

TO WORK EFFECTIVELY OR YOUR FULL MONEY BACK

FOR DETAILS FREEPHONE 0500 100 110 9

TESTED BY: House Beautiful, Kitchens Magazine, Perfect Home, Portsmouth University

Fast Systems Ltd., FREEPOST (RG206) Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1ZZ

☐ Please send colour brochure and prices
☐ Please contact me to arrange a free on-site demonstration

Name TIM 11
Address
Postcode
Tel No:

Scalewatcher THE MARKET LEADER IN ELECTRONIC SCALE PREVENTION

AN ENGLISH GARDEN CLASSIC

NEW VICTORIAN FLORAL ARCH

ONLY £29.95 +£2.95 P&P

We promise you won't find a more attractive or better value Arch this season.

A harmonious blend of Victorian design inspiration and modern technology - the classic shape, surmounted with a central finial will transform your garden with a host of interesting design possibilities.

Use it to create a fragrant floral feature spanning a pathway, framing a gateway, or creating entrances from one part of the garden to another.



MAINTENANCE FREE NO PAINTING EVER!

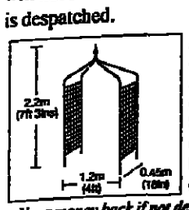
*Offer applies to UK mainland only

CHEMICALLY FORGED ALL-WEATHER BLACK NYLON COATING

MARVELLOUSLY STRONG STEEL TUBE

Unlike inferior Far Eastern imports, the new Victorian Arch is a full 4ft wide and is constructed from strong steel tubing, finished with a maintenance free black nylon coating. It requires no painting and comes ready for easy self-assembly with moulded joints and strong polypropylene mesh for training your favourite climbers such as roses or clematis.

Don't forget to order now, in good time for Easter. Your card will not be debited until your Arch is despatched.



All sizes quoted are above ground. We give an extra 13" below ground.

Your money back if not delighted - return unused within 14 days.

Normal despatch within 5 days but allow 28 days for delivery

ASHDOWN SPECIAL OFFERS

East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HP. A Division of Agriframes Ltd. The company is registered under the Data Protection Acts 1984. Registered in England 1082230.

ORDER NOW - OFFER ENDS APRIL 30TH

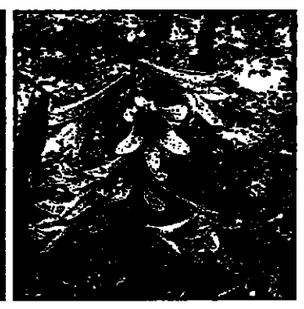
Please send me ___ new VICTORIAN FLORAL ARCH at £29.95 + £2.95 P&P. each
Send cheques to Ashdown Special Offers, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HP.
Or charge MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Switch ☐ Total £
Starts
Expires
Name
Switch Issue No.
Address
Postcode Tel:
Please tick here if you do not wish to receive other mail offers from selected companies ☐
Registered in England: 1082230 VAT Number: 210368003

MASTERCARD / VISA/SWITCH ☎ 01342 310050 (24hrs) FAX: 01342 310099.

JACQUES AMAND BULB SPECIALISTS



HEDYCHIUM GARDNERIANUM



GIANT HIMALAYAN LILY

HEDYCHIUM GARDNERIANUM

This truly magnificent member of the Ginger Family can grow as tall as 6ft and in late Summer produces bold Flower spikes packed with sweetly scented blooms of lemon-yellow and red. Holder of an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society it is perfect for providing an exotic element to summer bedding or patio tubs and given a rich well-drained soil with a winter mulch is quite hardy in most parts of the country. An added bonus is its especially handsome leaves. Will also grow in a conservatory.

3 PLANTS FOR £8.95
5 PLANTS FOR £13.95

GIANT HIMALAYAN LILY

Cardiocrinum Giganteum. this majestic plant can grow up ft tall with up to 20 exquisitely scented, trumpet shaped blooms. It grows in a semi shaded position and has large heart shaped leaves. It is a truly magnificent addition to any garden. Our special price which includes postage is .

Pack A - one Giant Himalayan Lily £8.95.
Pack B - 3 Bulbs for only £21.75 a saving of over £5.00

Money Back Guarantee If goods returned within 14 days. Complete growing instructions included in every order. Delivery 28 days

24 hour FREEPHONE 0800 3160500. Fax 0800 3160700
Orders to:
Jacques Amand, Bulb Specialists Ltd, P.O. Box 807, Harrow, Middlesex HA7 3JS
Please send me .....pack(s) A 1 Cardiocrinum @ £8.95
.....pack(s) B 3 Cardiocrinum @ £21.75
.....pack(s) C 3 Hedychiums @ £8.95
.....pack(s) D 5 Hedychiums @ £13.95
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone Number
I enclose crossed cheque payable to Jacques Amand for £..... or debit my Mastercard/ Visa by £.....
Card No.

WARWICK BUILDINGS

- STUDIOS
- SUMMERHOUSES
- WORKROOMS
- GARAGES
- STABLING

(Please specify which brochure)

SHOW SITE - SOUTHAM ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON, NR RUGBY WARWICKSHIRE CV23 8QL

TEL: 01926 815757
FAX: 01926 815162

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TAKE SHAPE WITH Agriframes

SALE NOW ON!

FLORAL ARCHES

OBELISKS

PERGOLAS, BOWERS, GAZEBOS & WALKWAYS

SCREENS AND PANELS

NEW 1998 CATALOGUE

Send NOW for your FREE copy featuring Agriframes structures *plus* hundreds of the best gardening products and ideas.

To: Agriframes Ltd., Brochure 5014, Charlwoods Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HP
Name
Address
Postcode
Please tick here if you do not wish to receive other mail offers from selected companies ☐

FREE CATALOGUE ☎ 01342 310000 (24HRS) FAX: 01342 310099

Fishy business in the garden

Christine Webb reports on the growing waiting list of buyers for properties with fishing rights



Kingsmere, above, belonging to Dr Hugo Hammersley, right, is on the banks of the River Itchen near Winchester

The pop star Gary Barlow hit the headlines last month when he secured his privacy by barring an angling club from fishing a lake on his 60-acre estate at Delamere Manor, Nantwich, Cheshire.

At least it was the former Take That singer's prerogative to ban the fishermen from his £1 million property, as he owned the fishing rights. Other homeowners with an apparently peaceful river at the end of the garden have learnt the hard way that "Fishing rights not included" usually means someone else owns them and the someone else has a perfect right to pace up and down the river bank brandishing a fishing rod.

Such a fate is said to have befallen Sting, another pop idol, whose Lake House, near Amesbury, Wiltshire, came with 54 acres and 315 yards of single-bank fishing on the River Avon. As agent Lane Fox's brochure clearly stated: the remaining fishing, about 1,000 yards of river bank, was let on a 15-year lease to the Piscatorial Society. Sting is said to have been miffed that members had free access to fish in the property he coveted as a private retreat.



Gary Barlow banned anglers from the lake on his estate

Owners of less grand abodes may feel even more aggrieved when a Barbour-clad fisherman crops up beyond the dahlias in the garden only yards from their patio, yet they cannot rightfully shoo him off. Such a scenario happened recently south of Stockbridge, Hampshire, and involved the Houghton Club — one of the most exclusive fishing clubs in the world.

The Houghton, which has 22 members, owns the fishing rights to miles of the most famous trout stream in England, the River Test — including about 200 yards at Houghton which clip the end of seven gardens belonging to private houses and bordering land belonging to The Boot pub.

This stretch is included in a 500-yard parcel of fishing rights that was put on the market at about £250,000. The club is rumoured to have accepted a much lower offer from a buyer who is giving the homeowners the chance to buy the fishing rights at the bottom of their gardens. Robin Lalonde, of the James Harris estate agency in Winchester, is handling the sale but declined to talk to us about a deal which the club wanted to keep quiet.

Not all the householders are buying the rights. But those who do can expect to gain from the purchase if they sell their property. Doing away with the anglers' right of access would add about 10 per cent to their homes' value — and owning a reasonable stretch of fishing adds even more.

Graham Waterton, of Strutt & Parker's Salisbury office, says: "Last summer I had a client who owned two miles of fishing rights on one of the chalk streams but not the land. He bought the land and by putting the fishing rights with it he enhanced the value of the land and rights together by 20 to 30 per cent."

He says friction could arise over fishermen's access when fishing rights are sold separately by a landowner who then sells the land to someone else. "Riparian rights is the ownership of the river and everything that goes on it and the river bed — often to halfway across it because rivers were frequently boundaries. Fishing is in such demand that you can let the fishing rights without giving up the riparian rights."

The rights are a good investment during prosperous times, especially on the best chalk streams such as the rivers Test, Itchen and Avon. Jonathan Durrant, chairman of the Hampshire River Keepers' Association, launched Timsbury Fisheries in 1995, a company which owns more than three miles of fishing on the Test river system. There are 112 shares owned by 76 fishermen — each share entitles its owner to fish one rod once a fortnight in season. The company's shares have doubled in two years from £7,000 to £14,000 each.

"It enables people to fish, having all the benefits of being on water and none of the disadvantages because the responsibility and costs are shared between them all," Mr Durrant says.

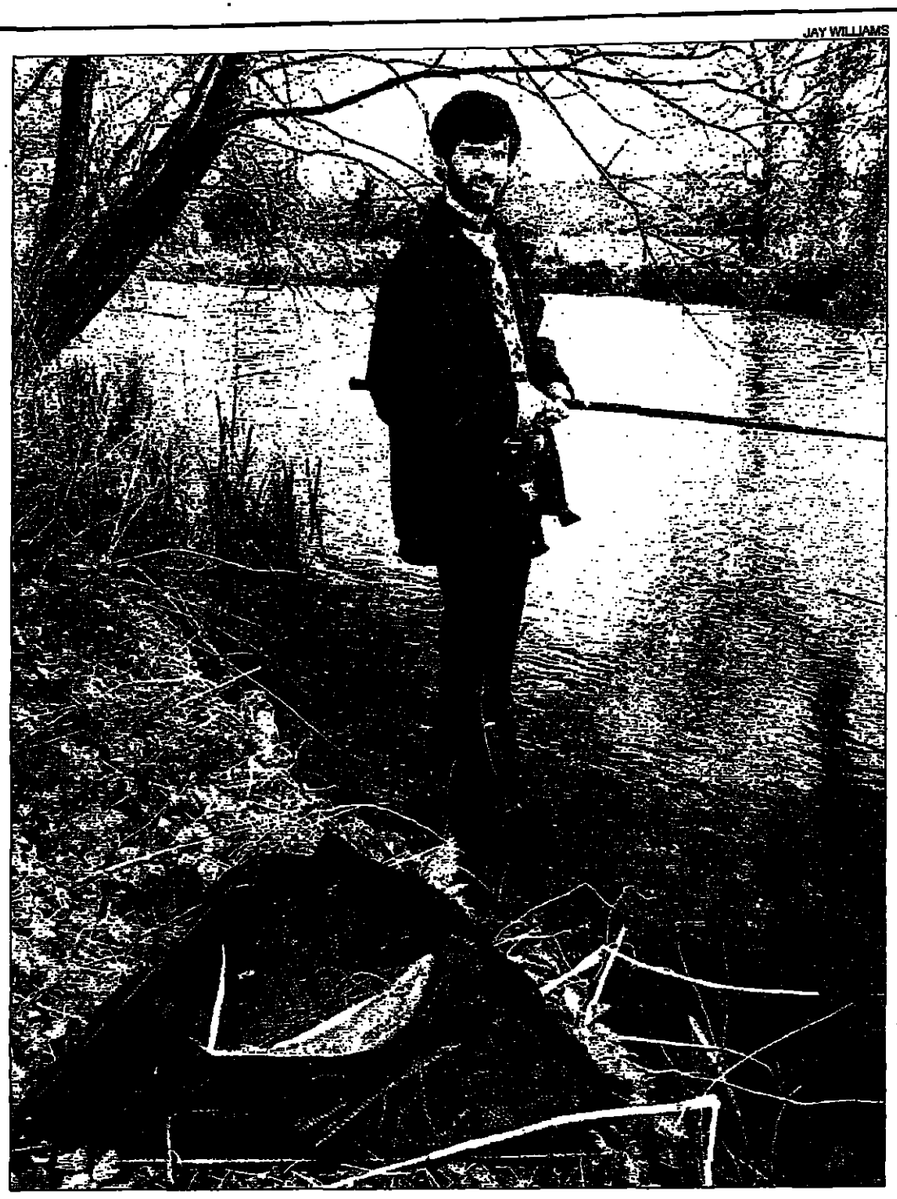
The best fly-fishing in Hampshire is valued by the yard, according to William Sleeman, of Cluttons Daniel Smith's branch in Romsey, Hampshire. "We have a few buyers waiting for fishing rights to come up. Good fishing costs £300 to £400 a yard, the less good £100," he says.

A job move is forcing Hugo and Maggie Hammersley, both doctors, to sell their Edwardian home on the banks of the River Itchen which skirts a willow-fringed island that also belongs to them.

"We and our neighbours spent a lot making sure there's a good flow of water here, and the trout have returned in force," says Hugo Hammersley. "I even saw a salmon last year.

"I don't do much fishing, but we've had a kingfisher nesting in the river bank and a pair of grebes. We and our three children will miss picnicking on the island, the boating, and sitting by the river on a summer's evening watching the trout rise." Kingsmere, their seven-bedroom house in Shawford, near Winchester, is being marketed by Hamptons (01962 842030) at £550,000.

Prime trout fishing can cost £300 a day. But the thrills of fly-fishing in spring are available on less exclusive rivers. A new house backing on to the River Ouse, near York, has been built in traditional style by Crosby Homes at Fox Garth, Nether Poppleton. The £430,000 house has large riverside gardens with fishing and mooring rights (01904 787714).



JAY WILLIAMS

SMART MOVES



ACTRESS, scriptwriter and romantic novelist **Jean Marsh** (above) is selling her Thames Reach Tower flat and moving to a cottage in the country. The 63-year-old author of *Upstairs Downstairs* and *House of Elliot* has put her first-floor flat in Fulham, west London, on the market for £405,000 and has moved to a converted labourer's cottage near Hungerford in Berkshire. Her new home is in complete contrast to the modernist Richard Rogers-designed flat overlooking the Thames, which she is leaving.

THE six-bedroom former home of the 19th-century pianist **Edward Dannreuther** in Orme Square, London W2, is on sale for £1.3 million through agents Chestertons. The pianist entertained Richard Wagner at the five-storey house on his visit to London in 1877.



FORMER Radio 4 presenter **Chris Searle** (above) is selling his Georgian home in the Frenchay area of Bristol for £435,000 in order to move closer to his children's school. His new home, a Victorian semi, cost more than £600,000 and is next to Clifton College which his sons Harry, 14, and Jack, 11, attend.

RACHEL KELLY

HOMES & GARDENS

THE GREAT HUSQVARNA CASH-BACK
CUTS THE COST OF GARDENING.
Buy a Husqvarna lawn tractor, pedestrian mower or brush cutter and you could win back the purchase price in the all new Great Husqvarna Cash Back - up to the value of £1000!
LAWN TRACTOR Complete with collector PRICES FROM £1149 INC VAT
Model illustrated LT 126
TO FIND OUT MORE FREEPHONE 0800 010520
FREE! 'Cleaner Machines for a Greener Future' shows you garden equipment from the world-famous Husqvarna range.
Please send me: Details about The Great Husqvarna Cash-Back ☐ Information about Husqvarna Lawn Tractors ☐ FREE Husqvarna Range Video ☐ T11/4
Name
Address
Post Code Tel
Send to: Husqvarna Forest and Garden UK, FREEPOST (GR 693), Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 1BR
Husqvarna

As recommended on BBC Gardeners' World
BEAT THE FROST
IT'S GROWMAGIC...
19° in MARCH!! Watch out... Jack Frost will destroy your early shoots and buds. NOW! DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER THE ORIGINAL... SOLAR BELL
• Fast & vigorous growth • Versatile system • Protects plants from birds & pests • Safeguards against frost, wind & storms • Helps temperature control • Perfect for precious plants, seedlings and crops
Protect your Solar Bell NOW to warm the soil
PACK OF 5 SOLAR BELLS £12.95 + £2.50 p&p (normally £19.95) FREE pack of 200 pegs with every 2 packs of Solar Bells
Encourages sunlight from all angles for faster growth
Diverts rain and condensation into surrounding soil for more vigorous growing
OPTIONAL GROUND PEGS £4.95 pack of 20 Post Free
Now you can buy the original Solar Bells direct from the manufacturer. At an unbeatable price. Thanks to their unique shape Haxnicks Solar Bells are the most successful individual cloching system available to keen gardeners. Made from high quality recycled plastic you can secure them with bent wire, skewers etc. or for best results order our specially designed ground pegs. Bells measure 34 cm (13 1/2") diameter by 26 cm (10") high and are durable and stackable. So for earlier and healthier plants order today...
24hr ORDERLINE 01747 870296
Visa Access Mastercard
Or please send cheque/PO to Haxnicks, (Dept TT) Westfield House, Wardour, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6RF
Despatch within 3 days.
Full money refund if returned unused within 14 days

SUPERIOR QUALITY CRAFTSMAN MADE WROUGHT IRON GATES
DIRECT from The FACTORY
WE ARE THE UK'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER SELLING DIRECT TO YOU
All at Factory Prices
NO MIDDLEMANS PROFITS
HUGE SELECTION ALWAYS IN STOCK
See the largest range of high quality, low cost, wrought iron & timber gates in the UK. Prices start at just £20. Over 600,000 satisfied customers. You buy direct from the factory at factory prices. Nationwide 7 day delivery.
FACTORY PRICES FROM JUST £20
EASY TO FIT SIMPLE & FREE FINISH GATES
FINEST QUALITY GATES
FREE 32 PAGE COLOUR CATALOGUE OVER 200 DESIGNS & SIZES TO CHOOSE FROM
VISIT OUR FACTORY SHOP AND DISPLAY GARDEN
24 HOUR CATALOGUE PHONELINE 01543 462500
or write to CANNOCK GATES LTD, (Dept TT1000), HANDS GREEN, CANNOCK, STAFFS WS11 2XT.
UK MAINLAND ONLY

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION TELEPHONE ZOE HOSKINS ON 0171 680 6116 OR FAX ON 0171 782 7930

HOMES & GARDENS ALSO APPEARS ON PAGE 11

FREE FEED & WEED Enough to cover 750 sq.ft.*
FREE WEED FREE LAWNS!
Take an Allen Wallaweer on the wide style of any garden, driveway or tarmac ground for extremely accurate and economical control of weeds and moss. No bending, no backache, no standing, no maintenance just no problem. With an Allen Wallaweer the precision application of liquid fertilizer, fungicide and weedkiller is quick and easy. And for a limited period we are offering 2.5 litres of lawn Feed & Weed with every Wallaweer sold. Please send for details.
PHONE THE 24 HOUR BROCHURE LINE OR COMPLETE COUPON
NAME:
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
WS7TT/10/98
THE MODEL SHOWN IS THE 28" GROUNDSPAN AT £249.95 inc.VAT. OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE FROM £149.95 inc.VAT.
BIG CUT PRICE £149
Be reassured, it's ALLEN
0845 60 10 815
Allen Power Equipment Ltd, The Brickyard, Didcot, Oxon OX11 8ES. For Sales & Service in your area

The Chelsea Plant Stand
Natural Pine Complete (5 mins to assemble. Rustproof fittings. Ready to finish for indoor/outdoor use.
L 57" H. 29" W. 24"
£39 Add p&p £3
Allow 28 days for delivery
ORDER BY PHONE ACCESS/VISA OR BY CHEQUE/PO Illustrated details from S.A. Johnson
THE DOMESTIC PARAPHERNALIA Co. Dept TT, Unit 15, Moira Business Centre, Dock Rd, Lytham, Lancs PR8 5AJ England. Tel: 01253 736554 24hrs. Fax: 01253 795191

RARE & UNUSUAL
OWN VARIETIES PELARGONIUMS, FUCHSIAS
Bred for health, quality.
Send £1.20 for catalogue, inc. p&p. Money back 1st order £10+
Swanland Nurseries specialist growers Beech Hill Rd, Swanland HU14 3QY 01482 633670

EXTERIOR CONSERVATORY BLINDS
DEFLECT THE HEAT BEFORE IT REACHES YOUR CONSERVATORY
Reduce the heat in your conservatory by up to 30 degrees
Suitable for all types of conservatory
Easy to use manual or electric operation
Glorious English Summers with Millennium
AWNINGS
Manufactured and installed throughout the UK
A wide range of attractive fabric designs
Extend your living space onto your patio
Comprehensive 5 year guarantee
MILLENNIUM FREEPOST COLCHESTER CO4 4ZZ
CALL NOW FOR A FREE BROCHURE
CALL FREE 0500 11 11 00

SCATTER
Clears Cats from your garden
NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY
Unique programme of computer-controlled ultrasound expels cats from lawns, flower beds, shrubberies, walls and patios
Not Affected by Weather
Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic - no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit
"Scatter is the only one that works" Classic FM Gardener's Forum 11th April 1997
SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will NO effect on birds or other pets INAUDIBLE to humans. Scatter is completely safe. Installed in minutes. Try it for 90 days - 5 year guarantee
FREEPHONE 0800 282824 FOR FREE BROCHURE LINES OPEN 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS
CLEARFLOW LTD, 47-48 High St, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0NE
Tel: 01488 687606 Fax: 01488 685411 TRADE and OVERSEAS enquires welcomed

HARD WATER
The scientific solution
We believe Krystal is the only water softener worth fitting.
Advanced computer technology with automatic 24-hour, 365-day programme
Compact size means installation is never a problem - even in the smallest spaces
Universal performance - Krystal is exceeding expectations where others fail
FIVE YEAR GUARANTEE
Our Promise soft water or your money back
Lime scale problems? Krystal can clear the whole house for less than £80!
Hard-water hands? Krystal gives you soft water from every tap
Clogged-up shower heads? Krystal keeps them clean and clear
Stains in the basin? not with Krystal
Fit Krystal yourself- NO plumbing, NO maintenance, NO chemicals and less than £2 a year to run.
NO-RISK HOME TRIAL - we give you 90 DAYS to try Krystal IN YOUR OWN HOME
Call Free 0800 590050 Lines open 24 hours, 7 days For your free brochure
Clearflow Ltd, 47-48 High St, Hungerford, Berks RG17 0NE Tel: 01488 687606 Fax: 01488 685411
TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENQUIRIES WELCOMED

The best activity toys in the whole, wide garden
Climbing, swinging, sliding, splashing, bouncing, laughing - get your copy of our fun filled brochure for a lifetime of outdoor play.
Activity Toys
Call for a free brochure (24hr) 0800 068 1870

From giant hands to grizzly bears — **Philip Delves Broughton** explores George Melly's bohemian rhapsody



The ground-floor fireplace in the sunny sitting room



DES JENSON

When George Melly moved to Notting Hill the area was still considered "pretty rough and funky". Now bankers are moving in and the area has gone upmarket

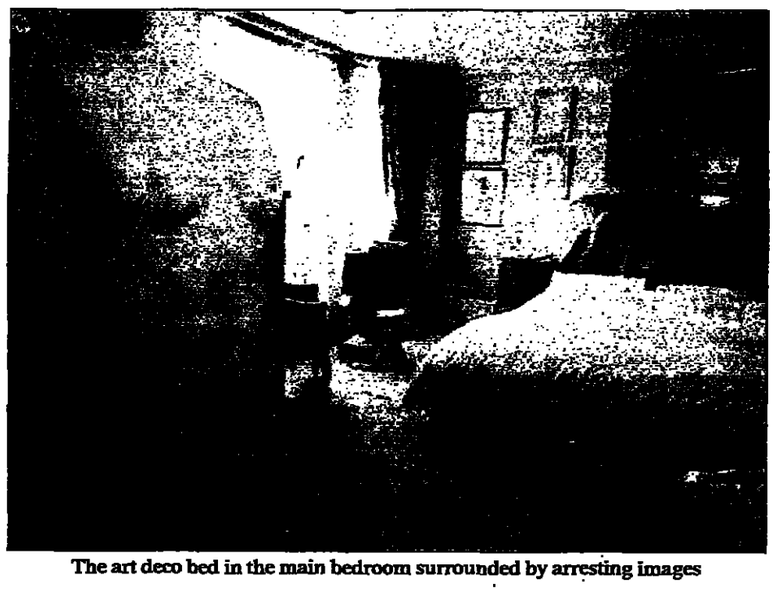
At home in the lair of a jazzman

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Not so long ago, Notting Hill Gate and the streets around Ladbroke Grove in west London were down at heel and violent, a tenement land where Rachman held sway and squatters, drug dealers and the poorest of London's immigrants ran riot. For those prepared to look beyond the squalor, however, it was also an area of vibrant cultural activity, a place where post-war Britain found its multi-cultural identity. Colin MacInnes, with novels like *Ace of Spades* and *Absolute Beginners*, was its chronicler, and he and some local West Indian musicians persuaded George Melly, jazz singer, art historian, dealer and dandy, to move here in 1977. Since then, the area has zoomed upmarket. From one end of the Portobello Road to the other, money has moved in.

Writers, artists and media types led the way, attracted by the still pungent smell of bohemia, and now the bankers have taken note and are migrating north from Chelsea, Fulham and Kensington. Where once men in vests leaned from balconies and jazz men ate breakfast in the late afternoon, now there are stripped pine floors and bonus-bought sports cars. For the likes of Melly, it is time to pack up his paintings and purple felt hats and move on.

"We moved from fairly respectable Kentish Town down here, which was considered pretty rough and funky," says Melly, still a little bleary from his performance the night before at Pizza on the Park. "It was also a very West Indian area, which didn't worry me, being a jazz man."



The art deco bed in the main bedroom surrounded by arresting images



Time to pack up the purple felt hats and move on

Wearing a bright yellow and red djellabah, he sits on a chair modelled in the shape of a large hand and turned around so his hands sit on the back rest. Around the room are several other chairs and ashtrays also in the shape of hands. The walls of his study in the basement are covered with paintings accumulated from his time as an art dealer and subsequently from friends. As a young man, Melly was given £900 by his father, a Liverpool wool broker, to invest in paintings. He bought Magrittes, Mirós and Picassos when they were still cheap, but a life dotted with financial crises saw them gradually sold off to private buyers as well as museums.

Even now, however, he is still constantly on the look out for new works, and scours galleries and the studios of new artists. It is the surreal which still excites him. Above an extraordinary art deco bed in his bedroom is a cartoonish painting, bought by Melly in Germany, of a group in a Tolkein fantasy landscape killing a polar bear. "It is so odd, it makes me laugh," he says.

In 1977, Melly's four-storey house cost just £37,000. He and his wife Diana spent the same amount fixing it up. Melly has a bedroom and bathroom as well as a study in his basement. It is a lair into which he can creep unnoticed when he returns home after a night out performing.

On the ground floor are a large, light sitting room and office, separated by folding doors which have been folded back. Upstairs, on the first floor, is the main family room and kitchen, painted in light pastel colours. The kitchen looks out on to a garden square divided up into private patches like allotments. The Mellys' own patch has been redesigned into a small terraced patio which they call the "yard".

Up on the top floor are two further bedrooms and access to a small roof terrace.

From the windows at the top, the surrounding streets glide off at strange, geometric angles. A jumble of tall terraced houses and council blocks stretch out to the north and east. Round the corner is a brasserie, where there is always a free calvados for Melly, and in the other direction the second-hand stalls and Portuguese bakeries of the Golborne Road: the area retains something of the character which brought the Mellys here in the first place.

"We're moving to a lovely house in Shepherd's Bush," says Melly. "It is smaller and far more manageable."

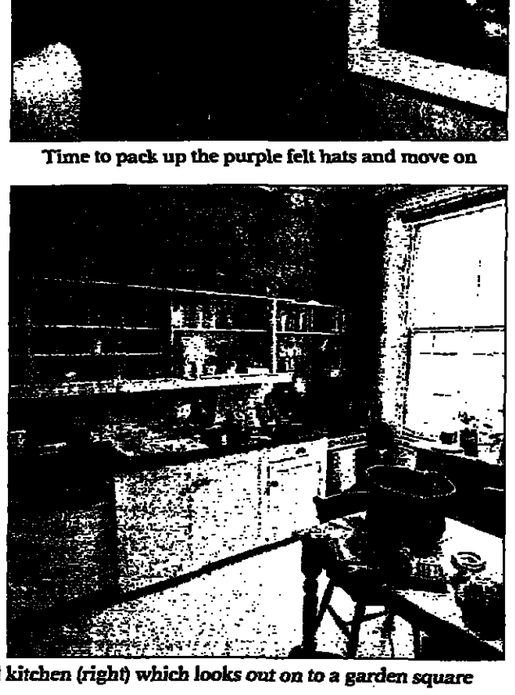
After buying their new place, some of the spare cash will go on funding Melly's latest obsession: deep-sea fishing. He produces a picture of himself in Florida, in a baseball cap and polo shirt, groaning under the weight of a colossal fish. He is living proof of the adage: old Surrealists don't die, they just move to Shepherd's Bush.

● *The Mellys' house in St Lawrence Terrace, Notting Hill Gate, London W10, is on the market for £560,000. Agents: Chestertons Residential (0171-937 7244) and Marsh and Parsons (0171-727 9811).*



Body sculpture in the shower





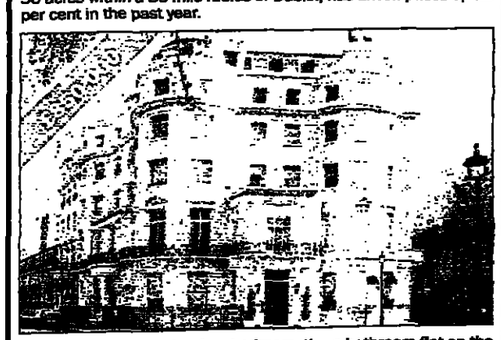
The first-floor dining room (left) and the pastel-painted kitchen (right) which looks out on to a garden square

HOME SWAP

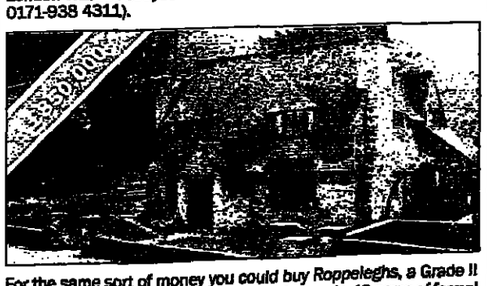
BUYERS priced out of Kensington, London W8, are moving to the Hyde Park Estate, W2, between Paddington and the West End, where prices are a third lower. The 19th-century estate, with its stuccoed terraces and garden squares, is built on land owned by the Church Commissioners. First-floor flats start at £250,000; about £350,000 buys a small mews house. Towards Westbourne Grove, a Victorian stuccoed terraced house can be bought from £650,000, according to estate agent Knight Frank.

The Surrey stockbroker belt has long been fashionable with wealthy buyers looking for family homes. It offers unspoilt countryside, good communications (35 minutes from Waterloo to Guildford by train) and a clutch of good schools. Desirable villages include Shalford, Wonersh and Bramley, where period houses with five bedrooms and pony paddocks costing from £750,000 are in constant demand, according to Savills. A larger country house with up to 20 acres will set you back from £1 million to £5 million, following price rises of 10-20 per cent last year.

The country house market in Ireland remains buoyant, despite the increase in Stamp Duty to 9 per cent last year. A shortage of Georgian houses in the range £400,000 to £700,000, with 20 to 50 acres within a 50-mile radius of Dublin, has driven prices up 15 per cent in the past year.



An 85-year lease on this four-bedroom, three-bathroom flat on the second floor of a white stucco-fronted building in Hyde Park Square, London W2, will set you back £850,000 (Knight Frank, 0171-938 4311).



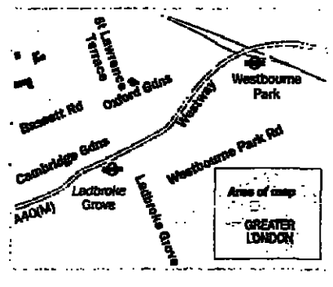
For the same sort of money you could buy Roppeleghs, a Grade II listed 15th-century six-bedroom country house, in 40 acres of formal gardens, orchards, woodlands and paddocks, near Haslemere, Surrey (Hamptons International, 01428 642307).



In Ireland, a similar sum will buy Ballea Castle, a restored seven-bedroom 13th-century castle above a wooded river valley and surrounded by its own 50 acres, near Carrigaline, Co Cork (Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171).

CHERYL TAYLOR

MARKET COMMENT



JUST as Notting Hill in west London blossomed on the back of Kensington's high house prices, so North Kensington — a further ten minutes north up Ladbroke Grove — has soaked up Notting Hill's overflow of buyers looking for relative value for their money.

This is transport-link land, huddling in the shadow of the Westway A40(M) flyover and bounded to the north by the mainline west from Paddington station; much of the property stock was built to cater for last century's commuters, who would pick up the then-smart new Metropolitan Tube line at Ladbroke Grove or Westbourne Park.

Ten years ago, admits Julian Ash of estate agent Chestertons, North Kensington definitely wasn't a place to make a point of visiting, and even now it lacks the funky bar and restaurant ambience of Notting Hill itself. But he believes that it is only a matter of time before the area is more fully developed: already the property market is dominated by media types and designers who don't care to pay Notting Hill prices. "It's a nice, slightly offbeat pocket — a cosmopolitan neighbourhood with a lot of value to be had," he says. "Those who have moved here should look at it as a mid to long-term investment, because they'll have bought a lot of space in an up-and-coming area. There are still a lot of tatty, run-down properties because the landlords don't take care of them, but that is all changing."

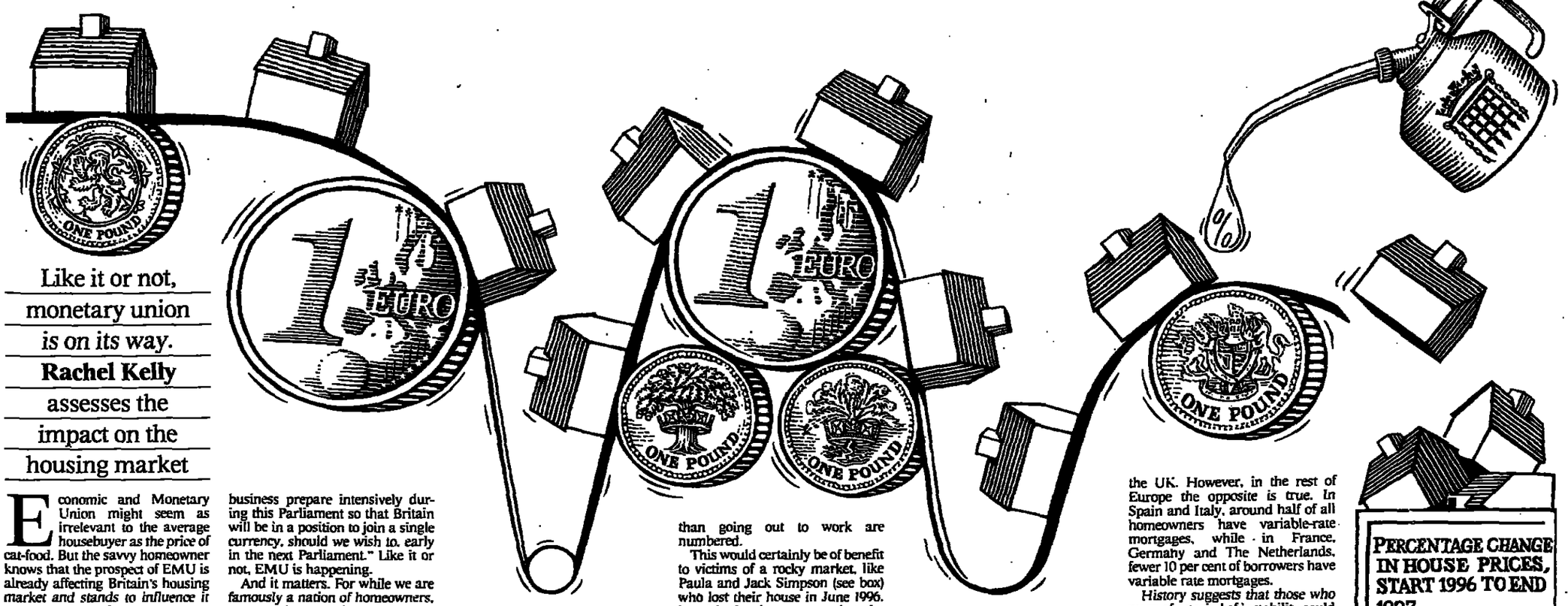
Three particularly sought-after roads are Bassett Road, Oxford Gardens and Cambridge Gardens, because of their large, mid-19th century, stucco-fronted houses. According to Mr Ash, they are comparable in style, though not in size with those of Holland Park, where the larger equivalent costs nearer £5 million: here, a six/seven bedroom 4,200sq ft house in Bassett Road fetched less than £1 million a year ago, and that would be par for the course.

EVEN IN comparison with Notting Hill, house prices are substantially lower: Mr Ash estimates that George Melly's house in St Lawrence Terrace, on the market at £560,000, would be valued at around £1 million further south. But, even in North Kensington, you are unlikely to find much choice in houses below £350,000-£400,000.

FAITH GLASGOW

What Euro money will do to your house

RICHARD ALLEN



Like it or not, monetary union is on its way. Rachel Kelly assesses the impact on the housing market

Economic and Monetary Union might seem as irrelevant to the average housebuyer as the price of cat-food. But the savvy homeowner knows that the prospect of EMU is already affecting Britain's housing market and stands to influence it even more in the future.

Britain is not signed up to EMU yet. But, at the beginning of next month, European leaders convene in Brussels to take the final decision on which countries will join the single currency in the first wave on January 1, 1999.

Paul Sanderson, head of research at the Nationwide building society, says: "Britain's position is uncertain. Although it is one of the few countries able to meet the agreed criteria for membership, it will certainly exercise its 'opt-out' from membership in the first wave. Nevertheless, speculation that the Government is setting the stage for entry at some later date has intensified."

The Government has ruled out joining the single currency for the lifetime of this Parliament but appears to be planning membership after that. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, laid out the Government's position last October: "British membership of a single currency in 1999 is not in the country's economic interests. It is essential that Government and business prepare intensively during this Parliament so that Britain will be in a position to join a single currency, should we wish to, early in the next Parliament." Like it or not, EMU is happening.

And it matters. For while we are famously a nation of homeowners, we are also a nation of debtors. Around 66 per cent of homes are owner-occupied in Britain, a third of which are owned outright. But the rest of us have mortgages. In future, interest rates may be set by the European Central Bank rather than the Bank of England.

Mr Brown is well aware of the sensitivity of lenders and banks to EMU. "It will affect the finance industry more profoundly than any other sector of the economy," he says.

Lenders say the housing market is already being affected by EMU. Mr Sanderson says: "The fact that the markets expect us to join EMU eventually has reinforced a fall in long-term interest rates, down to the level of those which are already prevailing in Europe. This has allowed British mortgage lenders to offer attractive fixed-rate deals which take advantage of lower long-term rates. About 60 per cent of new lending is now fixed-rate." Couples are already taking advantage of fixed-rate deals as lenders look ahead to lower interest rates.

EMU could have a long-term stabilising effect on the market because of low inflation. Fionnuala Earley, chief economist of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says: "Low house-price inflation will come to be regarded as the norm within EMU." There are many victims of the market's former instability. But the days when homeowners could earn more money watching their wallpaper than going out to work are numbered.

This would certainly be of benefit to victims of a rocky market, like Paula and Jack Simpson (see box) who lost their house in June 1996. But Mr Sanderson says that the market is already becoming less volatile. "If Britain were to enter monetary union this would lock us into lower inflation and thus create a more stable housing market. This process is already under way, and is likely to continue even if Britain were to stay out of monetary union."

There are some risks associated with the six months or so around our entry into monetary union, Mr Sanderson says. "The problem is that if Britain adjusts its interest rates to be the same as those in the rest of Europe, we might find ourselves with rates which would be either too high or low for domestic conditions. We are particularly vulnerable because we have so much variable-rate debt."

Variable-rate mortgages account for 80 per cent of all mortgages in the UK. However, in the rest of Europe the opposite is true. In Spain and Italy, around half of all homeowners have variable-rate mortgages, while in France, Germany and The Netherlands, fewer 10 per cent of borrowers have variable rate mortgages.

History suggests that those who warn of a period of instability could be right. The same principle happened in the late 1980s when interest peaked at 15 per cent. As Mr Sanderson says: "We saw how this could work during the experience with the ERM. We wound up with a recession. The cycles were out of sync within Europe. We had inappropriately high interest rates and this had a big effect on the UK housing market, helping to generate a recession."

Lower interest rates to converge with our European partners could mean a temporary property boom as low rates may encourage more people to buy houses. Some, though, feel the risks of entry are being exaggerated. Mr Sanderson says: "The market is far more stable than it was ten years ago." Ms Earley agrees: "Fears are overstated. In reality, an expectation of eventual entry is emerging, an announcement would be made after a referendum, and this would happen well in advance to allow physical preparation. This would allow a smoother transition to a new rate."

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN HOUSE PRICES, START 1996 TO END 1997.....

D	-0·9
F	0
E	2·4
P	8·8
B	12
S	12·4
UK	14·6
NL	16·1
DK	17·9
IRL	26·4
N	35·4

HOW A VOLATILE MARKET MADE US HOMELESS

PAULA and Jack Simpson are just one family thrown into turmoil by a volatile housing market. The couple lost their house in Hitchin, north Hertfordshire, in June 1996 after interest rate rises made it impossible for them to maintain payments on their variable-rate mortgage. Their home was repossessed.

Mrs Simpson says: "When interest rates were high in the early Nineties we got behind with the mortgage. We started having difficulties when we had children. My husband is a taxi driver. He has never stopped working but his job went downhill in the recession. We had been behind on the mortgage for two years, when out of the blue we got a repossession order. Ten minutes in court and we were no longer home-owners."

For people like the Simpsons, the more stable housing market that some believe could come with monetary union could only be a good thing. As it was, they were forced to spend a year in run-down council accommodation. "It was a grotty house with mould and damp in all the rooms," says Mrs Simpson. They now have a better council house but the memories remain. "I never thought it could happen to us," she says.

ADAM BARNARD

● *Names have been changed.*

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1986 (TRADE)

PROPERTY

0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)
FAX: 0171 782 7828 0171 782 7799

NORTH OF THE THAMES | CITY & WEST END | CITY DOCKLANDS & EAST | BERKSHIRE | CHESHIRE | HAMPSHIRE | OXFORDSHIRE | SUSSEX | WALES | WARWICKSHIRE

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Links. Open today, Easter Day & monday 10am-10pm 0171 288 0288.

BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Links. 7 days 10am-10pm 0171 288 0288.

CHISWICK 2 dble bedroom river view flat plus parking space, laminate cond throughout, gas, exc. location, LH. £139,950 would consider let. 0181 768 1000.

SW11 1 bed flat, excellent condition, central loc, long lease, £110,000. 0171 8284050

SW8 Tyrawley Road. Superb 3 bed house. £295,000 F/H. Cooney Duffy 0171 884 2228

ACTON West 3
Land for sale.
Planning permission for 3 or 4 bedroom detached house.
£80,000 ono.
0181 752 0500

ST JOHN'S WOOD.
Very spacious
New pottered 1st floor flat.
3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 marble ensuite)
Independent CH.
Fully fitted Magic Kitchen
Under ground parking & communial garden.
Ideal home or rental invest.
£408,000. Freehold
Tel: 0171 328 3127
No agents please

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

NORTHBOURNE RD SW4 Imposing 5 dble bed 4 storey period house. Off-Street parking 21 ft kit/break rm, playrm, dining rm, 3 recep, 3 bath, 60 ft gdn. nr Clapham Common & tube. Guide price £800,000 F/H Viewtome 0181 673 4377

NORTH DULWICH. Large fam hse, 5 beds, 2 baths, 60ft gdn. OIRO £295,000. 0171 738 7289.

WEST PUTNEY Greendales Avenue. SW15. A unique and spacious 1 bedroom flat. Prime location. Close to BR and Underground. Must be seen. £150,000. Tel: 0181 785 2960.

BATTERSEA SW11
3 bedroom house.
£240,000 Freehold.
Quick sale.
Tel: 0171 223 6748.

BELGRAVIA

CADOGAN LANE, SW1. Superbly presented house, 4 beds, 2 bath (1 ensuite), elegant drawing rm, dining rm, int garage, off st pkg, clk rm, loc kit leading to delightful conservatory & walled gdn. Private sale. OIRO £795,000. 01276 66985

CITY & WEST END

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD Huge 1300 sq ft top floor apartment ¼ mile from Thames ¼ mile from Waterloo Station, 2 double beds / 2 baths, 22 ft lounge, beautiful kitchen, private parking. Only £259,995. Tel:0171 261 1946. (Part exchange available)

CITY & WEST END

HARRODS ESTATES TEL: 0171-225 6566

APARTMENT IN GEORGIAN SQUARE
W1
Ground and garden maisonette presented in immaculate condition. Two interconnecting rec rms, w.c., kit, three bedrms, ensuite shw rm. shw rm, bathrm. Italian style garden.
Leasehold £695,000

MAYFAIR APARTMENT
W1
A quiet fifth floor apartment in this newly refurbished period building. Rec rm, kit/brkfast rm, three bdrms, two bthrms (one ensuite), day porter, lift.
Leasehold (995 yrs) £695,000

BLACKHEATH

BLACKHEATH
Stunning Georgian Grade II listed semi-detached house facing Heath. 2 mins to station, 4 beds, shower rm, bathrm, 3 recep, kit, utility, conservatory. Fantastic south facing walled garden, ¼ acre. garage. Front garden & off street parking for 3 cars.
£585,000.
0181 8520562

CITY DOCKLANDS & EAST

CITY Merchant house 2 bed, 1st floor apt. Entry phone, secure bldg £107,000. 0171 480 6815

CYCLOPS VIEW £239,999 2 bed, 2 bath apt. 24' lng. Direct river views, bike area, hall/apts. 0171 480 6815/0171 481 3606

HOOPER SQ. C/fig landscaped gdn. 2 bed apt, 2 bath, private terrace, garage. 24 hr porter £164,995. 0171 480 6815

LIMEHOUSE E14 Spacious new 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom houses with garden and integral garage or private parking, around 15 minutes from the City. Integrated kitchen with oven, hob hood, fridge/freezer, dishwasher, washer/dryer, fitted carpets. Short walk from Limehouse Basin, DLR and The Thames. Prices from £265,995. Also available 1 and 2 bed luxury apartments from £109,995. Tel: Commercial Wharf on 0171 531 9916

NARROW ST finest River front position, new 2,000 sq ft 3-4 bedroom penthouse. 360 degree panoramic views including 3 mile Thames. High spec fittings, carpeted throughout, garage. Canary Isles £595,000ono. 0171 7703668

POPLAR The Genuine Article. Airy, spacious 800sq ft studio in 1660's authentic conversion of grand canal side warehouse. £146,500. Tel: 0171 515 2613.

STEPNEY E1, 3 Bed fully refurbished house with views over Garden Sq. Very convenient for city. OIRO £175,000 F/H. Tel: 0171 790 4243

SE16
Stunning 2 dble bed riverside flat in lux develop. 1,000 sq ft. Huge recep with triple aspect view of Thames. 2 baths. Sec underground pkg. 24hr porterage with CC TV. Swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi. Soon to have access to private gym. No agents. £250,000.
0956 218870 / 01460 63161

CITY DOCKLANDS & EAST

ST KATHERINES DOCK (Sun close) £114,995. 2 bed split level apt. Convenient for Tower Hill underground. Immediate sale required. 0171 480 6815

HIGHBURY/ ISLINGTON

N1 (Canonbury) Ground floor 1 bedsit, sitting rm, E&B, BG yea. £136,000. Tel: 0171 359 0088 (days) 359 3995 (eves/ wknds).

N4 MANOR HOUSE
New 3 bed terraced town house 3 storeys, large fitted kitchen large lounge, 1 bathroom, 1 ensuite shower, 1 cloakroom. Own garage and driveway. 30ft garden laid to lawn. Near to city and tube
£178,000
No chain, Freehold
Tel: 0181 802 5200(home) or 0961 136727

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

LONDON HOMESEARCH Prof personal service for purchasers. 0171 284 7222.

NO TIME to find your new home. No new home, no fee. Call Property Eye Ltd 0707 1221 110

EVELYN GARDENS SW7
Large newly refurbished lower ground floor apartment.
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, drawing-room flat, 2 large patio areas with direct access to large well kept communal gardens.
£395,000.
Please phone:
0171 387 0887 or 0973 889160

W8 CHARMING MEWS FLAT.
Superb location.
Mins from Hyde park & Kensington High street/ Gloucester Road tubes.
Good condition, well maintained 2 double beds, recep, FF kitchen.
Lease 109yrs, must sell.
£310,000 ono. No agents.
Tel: 0410 010682

WIMBLEDON

WIMBLEDON VILLAGE
Elegant Fftdld 1st floor of lge detached hse, converted to 3 self-contained flats in prime residential road, quiet, but just off parkside, shops & tennis. Immaculate. Bright & spacious, 2 lge recps, 2 lge dble beds, bath, WC. F/F modern kitchen. Own gge. Must be seen. £285,000.
0181 946 6574.

BRISTOL

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Professional service for buyers. Save time, effort, money. Bristol 0117 974 1849.

CORNWALL

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Prof service for purchasers in Devon & Cornwall 01872 223349

BERKSHIRE

LARGE COUNTRY HOUSE
Standing in open country side unopposed on approx 6 acres Good shooting & fishing and Safe riding for children with menage, stables + 4,500 sqft of outbuildings with grooms accom. planning for office/ software.
5 miles J10 M4, £750,000.
Tel: 01189 760341 or 0956 956544

RUN YOUR BUSINESS FROM HOME.
Listed Elizabethan house and recently renovated 18th Century Barn 3 acres. 4 bed house, 2 baths, 2 living rooms & hand-crafted kitchen. The Barn provides approx 2000 sq feet with current license for use by Media Company. Plenty of parking. Nr Ascot in a rural situation but easy to find. Charming Granary.
£595,000.
01985 844461 / 0802 276511.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

£2MILLION offered for charming house (5 bed) with cottage in peaceful secluded grounds. No fees. Peredo 0171 221 1404

FORTY MINUTES FROM MARYLEBONE
A brick and flint deceptively large detached family home, situated on the edge of the Chiltern Hills.
Four receptions rooms, master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms, double garage.
sunny garden.
£239,950
Contact: Raffety Buckland
01844 344422

IVER HEATH
Executive 5 bedroom, 3 bathroom house with ¼ of an acre. Double garage. Quiet location. M40-2 miles. M25-3 miles. Excellent schools, golf & leisure facilities.
£385,000 Freehold.
Call Aegis:
01932 781144

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

RETIRE TO VILLAGE LIFE NEAR CAMBRIDGE
The pretty Cambridge necklace village of Girton is the setting of this latest English Courtyard. There are 23 spacious houses and flats built around beautiful courtyards - Show house is now open for viewing
Prices from £190,000
Freephone 0800 454 626
quoting ref NP7

CHESHIRE

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO A comprehensive homesearch service. Tel 0161 929 7960

RETIRE TO VILLAGE LIFE NEAR CHESTER
At Tattenhall, large 2 bed houses with bathroom, shower room, garage & patio - Beautifully landscaped, exclusive retirement development by English Courtyard From £154,000.
Freephone 0800 919 044
quoting ref NP6

CUMBRIA

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO will find & secure your ideal home Cumbria/Lancs 01524 762399.

DEVON

DOWNSHIFT to S. Hams 6 bed/4 bath modern farmhouse & tenant farm & fishery. £395,000 Tel/Fax 01548 820172.

HYFIELD GARDENS Torquay. Superb fully refurb 2 bed apts, gge, sea views. From £69,000. Fulfords 01803 527523.

NR SALCOMBE - a holiday cottage in South Devon within the weary of total ownership. 1, 2, & 3 bed cottages. Choose 4 weeks for just £6,950 fully refunded after 12 yrs. Indoor pool, restaurant on site. Details Sunscombe Manor 01548 531922

RIVER YEALM South Devon Spectacularly situated Period Coastguard's Cottage overlooking the mouth of the River Yealm the Newstone & beyond. Close to Cellars Beach and on the coastal footpath. Magnificent sea views, large living room, 4 beds, gge. £250,000 Berridon & Co. 01752 880100.

DORSET

BOURNEMOUTH Lovely restored 3 bed period cottage, centre of Branksome Park, short walk sea. shops £169,000.01202 766268

MIDDLESEX

HAMPTON HILL Superb 3 bed semi, 24 ft lux kitchen, patio gdn. Nr Bushey Pk & RR. GCH. £182,000. 0181 9416712

HAMPSHIRE

NEAR WINCHESTER
Late Victorian detached house, seven en-suite bedrooms (four double and three single). Three large reception rooms, large kitchen, triple garage. ¾ of an acre. £425,000.
Tel: 0802 666961 (Monday onwards).

HAMPSHIRE

LYMINGTON Det character cott, c 1780. 2/3 beds + annexe. C/fit. Dishw, j/cig, gdn. Ideal invest. £110,000. Tel: 01202 844805.

£1MILLION offered for small secluded house, any condition, with/near fishing. No fees. Peredo 0171 221 1404

NORTH HAMPSHIRE Character thatched cottage, 3 beds, adj to 500 acre forest, wildlife galore. £250,000. Tel: 01189 829082

VILLAGE house with attached cottage, conservatory, out-buildings, garden, paddock. 2 acres. 8m N of Winchester. £450,000 01962 760727.

NEW FOREST
Period house. 6 acres. Secluded position. Direct forest access. Stables, outbuildings. 4 reception. 4 bed. Stunning gardens. Separate 3 room flat.
Guide price £550,000.
01425 656727(Day/Eve)

KENT

HOLLINGBOURNE Superb new conversion of listed barn of great character, 4 beds, 2 baths, galleried lounge, d.r., study, oak kitchen, utility, w.c., dble ggs, approx 2 acres gdn & paddock. £545,000. OWELOUEST LTD 01622 817999 (office) 01622 882102 (eves & wknds)

PLAXTOL NEAR SEVENOAKS
In heart of village, detached family house. Lobby, large hall, 2 receptions, FF kitchen, utility room, 5 bedrooms(1 study/6th bedroom), 3 bath/ shower(2 ensuite) cloakroom, double glazed throughout, double garage with power door. Secluded garden.
OIEO £375,000.
Tel: 01732 810686

John Bishop AND ASSOCIATES
LITTLE CHART FORSTAL
Under 3 miles Ashford international station
EXCEPTIONAL 16TH CENTURY COUNTRY HOUSE IN IDYLLIC PARTLY WALLED PLANTSMAN'S GARDEN
5 Bedrooms. 1 Bathroom. 3 Reception Rapsone Barn. Double Garage. Outhouse. Tennis Court. 7 Acres incl 2 Paddocks. From £725,000
Tel:01233 812333

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NORTHANTS stone cott, village close M1/A14. Ideal weekend retreat, 2 beds, C/H, secure & cosy. £50,000. 01604 759000

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Will find and secure your ideal home. 0114 268 2533.

OXFORDSHIRE

£5 MILLION +
Offered for superb Classical house 7/8 bed) with small secluded estate.
No fees.
Discretion assured.
PEREDS
0171 221 1404

OXFORDSHIRE

HEADINGTON, Oxford. Attr detd det 3 bed hse. 1 en-suite. Gge. Dble glazed. Low maint. £179,950. 01865 764607.

£2MILLION offered for charming house (5 bed) with cottage in peaceful secluded grounds. No fees. Peredo 0171 221 1404

MILTON COMMON Grade 2 listed red brick farmhse, 1 mile junc 7 M40. 4 beds. Lge gdn, tree-lined, well, lge red brick out-hse. £249,950. 01844 278954.

SCOTLAND

S.W.SCOTLAND. Semi built cottage on Cliff side plot. Inc. cliff to beach. Plans avail. £35,000. Tel: 0171 226 4560.

TO Acquire Edinburgh Residential Investment property Tel: Albany 0131 229 9999.

SUFFOLK

NE SUFFOLK 4 bed Detached Period Cottage. Central village location. Conservation Area. ½ Acre Gdn. 15 mins Southwold & Heritage Coast £139,500 ono. Phone: 01986 872908/874878 Fax 01986 876698.

SURREY

ALFOLD Surrey/Sussex borders. 17thC 2 bed cottage, huge inglenook, exposed beams, far reaching views over South Downs. £135,000. 01403 753492 / 0467 340334.

CARLSHALTON VILLAGE Only 2 new houses remaining in an attractive mews development of four 3 bed, 2 bath Victorian style properties. Finished to an exceptional standard. N.H.B.C. Just 3 minutes from Carshalton station and 24 minutes to Victoria. From £134,500. 01403 710355 for showhome viewing.

SUSSEX

IMPOSING country hse, views, 6 beds, 33 acres, stables, private, £725,000. Tel: 01798 831722

ARUNDEL
New riverside townhouse with castle views. Parking for 2 cars. Terrace and balcony. Fully fitted kitchen. 2/3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully carpeted. £245,000.
01903 872349.

DERBYSHIRE

SCARGILL MANN & CO.



CRICH, DERBYSHIRE £175,000
Early 17th Century Period stone property with the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing. Situated close to the Peak National Park. Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room with Inglenook fireplace, craftsmen built fitted Kitchen & reclaimed cochrel pine, fully integrated appliances, 4 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom (potential en-suite). Family Bathroom. Extensive well stocked gardens in excess of ½ an acre with perfumed scented shrubs, herbs and reclaimed stone setting area, stone double garage.
LARGE STONE OUTBUILDING (18FT X 14FT) OFFERS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WITH THREE PHASE ELECTRICITY IDEAL FOR HOME WORKER, STUDIO OR WIDE VARIETY OF BUSINESS USES. ADDITIONAL LIVING ACCOMMODATION FOR DEPENDENT OR INDEPENDANT RELATIVES OR FOR CONVERSION INTO A DELIGHTFUL GARDEN HOUSE. SUBJECT TO PLANNING CONSENT.
01332 207720

WALES

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Professional service to find & secure your next property. Cardiff 0846 600 0104.

NORTH WALES Conwy Valley Situated in beautiful rural setting is a modern 3/4 bed house with 15.7 acres. North Wales Coast Expressway 10mins, Manchester & Liverpool approx 1hr. £285,000 Tel:01492 877441.

WARWICKSHIRE

Retire to village life at Dunchurch Hall
The Duke of Buccleuch's former hunting lodge is the centrepiece of English Courtyard's splendid development of 23 houses and flats set in acres of beautiful gardens with wonderful open views across the rolling countryside.
Prices from £169,000
Freephone 0800 454 627 quoting ref NP5

PROPERTY WANTED

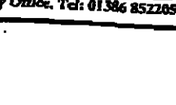
I should very much like to rent (in Kensington or possibly Chelsea) a flat which has a large dining/drawing room, 1 large & 1 smaller bedroom, 1 or preferably 2 bathrooms, a not-too-small kitchen.
This flat should not face North; it should not be in a modern block, but preferably in a pre 1900's building which has been well converted.
For a lease of 15 years minimum, I will gladly pay a good rent.
Miss C Bram Shaw, Flat 8, 39-40 Beaufort Gardens, Knightsbridge, London, SW3. Tel: 0171 8237619

WARWICKSHIRE

LEAMINGTON SPA 6 bedroomed Georgian property suitable for students. FF & equiped. 25 mins bus ride to University. £137,000. 0117 9732352.

SCOTLAND

ARGYLLSHIRE GLENDARUEL



Substantial modern detached bungalow in rural setting containing split-level L sitting room/dining room; 3 bedrooms; kitchen with Aga; bathroom, laundry; toilet. Integral double garage. Mains electricity; septic tank drainage; private water supply. Oil fired central heating. Immediate entry.
Offers over £105,000
Contact messrs.
Stewart & Bennett, Solicitors,
82 Argyll Street, Dunoon, S.Argyll PA23 7NE
Tel: (01369) 702885: Fax: (01369) 706695

COUNTRY PROPERTY

ESSEX - HARLOW COMMON
Large Modern House
Rural setting. 45 mins city. 5 mins J7 M11. 3 Reception rooms. Large kit/bk room. Cloak room. Laundry room. Wine cellar. Conservatory. Gardeners room & WC. Boot lobby. 6 bedrooms. 3 bathrooms. Seperate show & wc. Solar panneling help oil fired CH. Secluded position in over 2 acres. Swimming pool. Pool house with sauna, kitchen, shower & wc. Tennis court.
Offers IRO £550,000.
Phone: 01279 442990 or 01279 425714(fax).

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL



WORCESTERSHIRE Broadway
Set in the sought after Upper High Street of this famous North Cotswold village, a recent Dairy and Barn conversion.
Porch, dining hall, sitting room, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. Garage. Off-road parking. This property would make an ideal second home.
Offers in excess of £160,000
Broadway Office. Tel: 01386 852265/852912

WILTSHIRE

BERKS Sleepy town off A303/r2 hrs London, sympathetically renovated 2 bed det 200 yr old cott edged by stream, crammed full of unusual features. Immigration forces rpty sale. £123,500ono 07970 257758.

£2MILLION offered for small secluded homes, very condition, with/none fishing. No fees. Peredo 0171 221 1404

MEDIEVAL MANOR
GRADE 2* OLD HALL HOUSE
Tisbury S.W. Wilts conservation area. 4 dble beds, 2 bth, 2 loos, 4 recepn with lge open fireplaces. Kitchen with AGA. Oil CH. Recently refurb. Granny flat, cellar. Mid village. Walled S.W. 1 acre gdn, ponds. Triple gge. Summer hse, Guest hse etc.
£550,000 ono. 01747 870 285

£5 MILLION +
Offered for superb Classical house 7/8 bed) with small secluded estate.
No fees.
Discretion assured.
PEREDS
0171 221 1404

BALEARICS

QUALITY HOMES Throughout Mallorca & Menorca. Also mainland Spain. Prices fr £80K-£4M. Freefone/Fax 0800 908984

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

MALLORCA Pollensa district detached villa. An exclusive setting with benefit of self contained flat. 72,000 000 pesetas Details on request please fax Ida Johansen 01723 365111(office) or 01892 536003(home).

Marriott VACATION CLUB INTERNATIONAL
The worldwide leader in Holiday Ownership is introducing its first European five star resorts with luxurious apartments and the Marriott service standard.
Very limited preconstruction pricing available.
Call 0800 804477 x 7071 for more information
Ref: 10711

FRANCE

CHARENTE, SW FRANCE "MAISON DE MAITRE"
In beautiful countryside. 4/5 beds, 2 baths, reception rooms, large French country kitchen, full-height attic for conversion. Separate cottage 2 more attic good house/office. Large barn and stally outbuilding garden. Very within our Les Parentades European 34297 Montpellier cedex 5/France www.maxet.fr/pe

£33,000
Rural French village house approximately 300 years old with basement cellage, 2 double bedrooms, kitchen/dining room, sitting room, lay fire, shower/toilet. Also 1/4 double bedroom basement flat. All part-furnished. Convenience 25 minutes Toulouse 45 minutes. Spain 250 hours. No garden VAT payable TV & Clarion 2CV included.
Tel: 0033 478 57 59 17

AUVERGNE hse, 100m fr River Allier, Swimming, Canoeing. Sailing nr 1 hr. Elgn fr Europrin. £57,500. Tel: 01926 422316.

BUY without Commission. Pearl Receive regularly, at your home, a selection of real estate corresponding to your demand. Fax (33) 4 67 63 63 19, or write to: Le Partenaire European 34297 Montpellier cedex 5/France www.maxet.fr/pe

PROVENCE 5kms UZES.
Beautifully restored designers house in medieval village next to Chaucer. 3 beds with ensuite baths. Central courtyard & large rooftop terrace. C.H., cellar & separate garage.
£163,000.
Telfax: 00334 66351956.

SOUTH WEST FRANCE. Tarnand Yon, Bergac Montauban and Gaillac. Study stone built family farmhouse in excellent condition surrounded by gardens and own paddocks and woods. 4 double bedrooms, kitchen, dining, sitting and 2 bath rooms. Spacious attic with three windows suitable study, offices or children's rooms. Also playroom and substantial BB type stone barn on 2 floors plus 75 sqm workshop or stabling. All rooms have outstanding views of the pastoral countryside.
£175,000.
Tel: (0033) 5 63 33 15 33
Fax: (0033) 5 63 33 12 69
or internet brochure. English Owner

S.W. FRANCE
TOULOUSE 30 mins.
Elegant XVIIIc Manor. Beautiful and secluded setting, close to market town. 6 beds, 5 baths, 4 rec. Fully modernised c/h etc.
Second house 3 beds, 2 baths. Magnificent pool, extensive gdns and orchards. 22 acres of paddocks & wood. Stables, barns, garages etc.
Price guide £450,000.
Tel/Fax: 0033 563580489 for colour brochure.

CHATEL 3 bed apt, adjacent to best Skiing in Porte du Soleil. £?40000. 01707 672490.

DORDOGNE Nr St.Pardoux 2 charming characteristic cottages or river, lakes & shops. £55,000. Tel: 041 691 7696

FRENCH ALPS. Ski properties from £30k - £500k. Brochure. Beaches Int. 01562 880181

LOT South of Rhive spare, 17C Chateau. 1 bed, large lounge, marble fireplace, FF kitchen, pool, mature garden & view. FF 349,000. Tel: 01372 272110.

MEDITERRANEAN 2 yrs apartment. Door to door skiing. £85,000. Tel: 0181 684 2781.

CHARENTE MARITIME: new Hses. Burgundy & Normandy mod All styles all prices.01795 874497

ABSOLUTE BARGAIN!
Beautiful old renovated five bedroom cottage, 15 minutes drive from Le Mont St Michael. Must sell hence the price £36,000. No offers.
Tel: 01179 476534 or 01179 322405.

GREECE

CRETE The best selection of estate houses, apts & land. Real Crete Props 01865 208001

PELOPONNESE
Beautiful Old Stone house on Southern Greek mainland. Fully renovated. Sleeps 6-8. In acre of Olive groves overlooking Mediterranean.
£130,000 ono.
Telephone Owners 0030 721 73998 or 01428 642485 for Colour brochure.

FRANCE

FRENCH PROPERTY EXHIBITION
ADMISSION FREE — ADMISSION FREE
8TH, 9TH, 10TH MAY 1998
FRI. 11.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SAT 10.00 AM TO 6.00 PM. SUN. 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM
PAVILIONS OF HARROGATE, GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOWGROUNDS, HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
Organised by FPH: Visit our website: http://www.french-property-news.com
2a Lonsdale Road, London SW20 0LR. Telephone: 0181 944 5500
BRITAINS BIGGEST & BEST EXHIBITIONS FOR HOMES IN FRANCE

ITALY

MILAN - ITALY PIAZZA SCALA OFFICES, UP TO 600 sq. metres net
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
LOSSA CONSULT SAS
PIAZZA REPUBBLICA 6 MILAN - ITALY
Fax: 0039 2 65 71 721
Local estate agents are welcome.

RETIREMENT HOMES

English Courtyard have a limited number of luxury retirement houses & flats available at:-
Puddletown, Dorset - Towcester, Northants
Taunton, Somerset - Torquay, Devon
Prices from £75,000 to £120,000
Freephone 0800 220858 quoting ref RP2
8 Holland Street Kensington W8 4LT — English Courtyard — 8 Holland Street Kensington W8 4LT

IRELAND

CALL or fax Green Umbria Ltd on 0039 75941 0113 for the best selection of town & country houses in Umbria & Tuscany.

ITALY

TUSCANY & Umbria. We have a large selection of restored & unrestored cottages, farmhouses, palazzos for sale or to rent. Tel: 01728 618858 or www.easyproperty.net

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!
Wing your way to Tuscany NOW. Take advantage of the strongest pound in years. Our house in Lunigiana, the peaceful, undiscovered corner of Tuscany next meteorite & sea, cost in Italian lire the same as here in UK. In ££'s they cost about 30% less! Home made cottages with character priced at 30K, to restored 5 beds, 3 baths farmhouses with land bordering river at £150K.
For details call Lois
Tel: 00-39-187-420710
Fax: 00-39-187-420951

PORTUGAL

ALGARVE The most sunshine in Europe, a beautiful coastline and a cosmopolitan way of life. For details on your new villa contact Portugain. Tel: 01296 334 225 UK. Fax 00351 82 341286 Portugal.

ALGARVE Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago & surroundings. Villas, Sol and Carvoeiro Golf, luxury villas & apartments now for resale. Prime Property International 01628 778841

SPAIN

CAMP DE MAR Mallorca. Frontline 2 bs, 2 bth, form gnd fl apt to mod vast block. £65,000.Tel/fax01326 310059

COSTA DEL SOL choose from upmarket properties in Marbella, Puerto Banus, Estepona etc for magnificent low & resale beachfront, golf & managed properties. Overseas offices & freephone. Prime Property Int. 01628 778841

COUNTY HOMESEARCH will save time, money & language problems. Hunting your home/villa/apps, in S Spain.07000 466373.

HOUSE in charming Sierra Nevada village, 30 mins coast, skiing. Needs restoration. £8,000. Tel: 0034 58788268

JAVEA/MORAIRA 2bth-£200k: New & resale. Beach & photos Beaches Int 01562 885181

MARBELLA (Banus). Stunning 5 bungalow. 3 beds, 2 baths, lovely kitchen, some furniture. Cost to 1985 £76,000. Sale price reduced £55,000 ono. Tel: 0151 924 6736.

MARBELLA/ESTEPONA/NERJA. Also Mijas & Javea, Mallorca & Menorca. Stunning properties in all areas. £80K - £5M Freefone/Fax 0800 908984

MARBELLA - NR PUERTO BANUS. Villa 1600m² plot. £135,000. Quick Sale !! 01789 293111

REAL SPAIN Unspoilt Almeria Province. Inland cottages / houses / land & coastal properties. 01525 874084

USA

MIAMI, FLORIDA
Luxury bayfront apartment, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, situated on 22 acres of private grounds; tennis courts, pools, gyms, marina, best security.
Financing available.
Bargain price $129,500.
Tel: 001 305 892 0486
Fax: 001 305 892 0421

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTHERN Cape. Coastal farm, 100 acres, sub-divisible. 3 houses, close to town/airport. £275,000. Tel: 01202 700280.

COUNTRY RENTALS

RYE, Sussex. by river, smart, civilised house/barn, £70 pw. View Easter, 01797 225879

WILTS/GLOS 3M 8 miles. Romantic wing magnificent 17th C mansion. Park land setting. Easter view £1,750 pcm p/View 01444 822424/0831 804464

E. ANGLIA.

Ideal second home on unspoilt private island. Tidal rd. Good beaches.
01621 788451/ 788273.
Fax: 788244.

E. ANGLIA.

Ideal second home on unspoilt private island. Tidal rd. Good beaches.
01621 788451/ 788273.
Fax: 788244.

STRUTT & PARKER
CORNWALL
Attractive house in rural location. 4 beds, 3 baths. Excellent decorative order. Garden and garage. Available for up to 4 years. Region £850 pcm Exeter: 01392 215 631

LONDON RENTALS

ALL Sizes of flats available in London.Short/long lets,friendly service, no fee. 0171 486 6045

ARE YOU Visiting London? Central Serviced town quality flats and houses in Central London for long or short term rentals. 0171 224 3773.

LONDON RENTALS

BARBICAN EC2 Superb 1/2 bed, bals, D/W, WM etc £225 pw. Daniel Watney 0171 283 4414

CHELSEA studio, lovely & spacious, good storage, separate kitchen, sunny, quiet location. £200pw. Tel: 0171 823 5183

CITY EC4, new refurb 2 bed/bath, Furn/unfurn £275 pw. Daniel Watney 0171 283 4414

ST JOHN STREET.
Clerkenwell EC1. Large (975sq ft) 1 bed 1st floor flat. Architect designed industrial conversion 1995 exposed brick. Steel columns, large windows, oak floor, stainless steel glass brick etc. bath, seperate shower.
£1,450pcm exclusive. No agents.
Tel Day: 0171 2622877 Ext:434 0171 6899816 (Eves)

CITY & WC1 For a complete of quality 1 & 2 bed furn/unfurn apts fr £250 pw. Tel: 0171 250 1012 Hertford Saint Carr

ISLINGTON N1, Stunning 2 bed, D/W, fully furn £625 pw. Daniel Watney 0171 283 4414

KEW Large room in luxury house, own bathroom, share kitchen, all mod cons and garden. £140pw inc. 0181 948 2767

MAYFAIR Adj Grosvenor Sq. Newly inter dec. luxury flat. Light spacious 2nd flr. Int. 2 lge dble bed, 1 marble bath. Ebsp reception/dining area int. all mod. C/H Inc £650 pw 0171 493 2933 Evenings pref

ST JAMES'S, SW1. Selection of luxurious flats to let some to be from £250 pw. 0171 409 7305

WIMBLEDON Newly decorated spacious 2nd flr 4 bed flat. C/h nr Wimbledon Station £400 pw 0171 924 1935

UK & OVERSEAS TIMESHARE

TIMESHARE COMPUTER LINK
TIMESHARE CONSUMER ASSOCIATION

SPRING SALES OFFERS

Country	Resort	Sleep	Wk/Season	£ per week
UK	Grand Vacation Club	6	All	from £45/night
Wales	Haven Court	8	red	1750
England	Shakespeare Classic Line	8	Gold	from £1,500
England	Broome Park	6	July	2750
England	Flaxenford Priory	6	July/Aug	2950
Scotland	Forest Hills	4	Low	650
Tenerife	Parque del Sol	4	July	1250
Tenerife	Beverly Hills Club	6	High	2350
Lanzarote	Lanzarote Beach Club	6	High	1950
Costa	Aloha Villas Owners Club	6	Sept & Xmas	2450
Costa	Mallorcaman Country Club	6	Oct	1900
Costa	CIC at Marina Dorada	8	June	2650
Algarve	Four Seasons Fairways	6	Oct half term	5500
USA	Cypress Pointe	10	High	3250
USA	Westgate Vacation Villas	6	Sept	2750
Hawaii	Imperial Hawaii	6	High	1500
Gambia	Kotoli Beach Club	4	High	2350
France	La Plauge	5	July	950

FREE REGISTRATION For all sellers
01926 314400

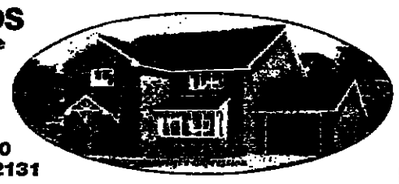
NEW HOMES

BEWLEY HOMES
BEWLEY HOMES PLC
Quality Homes of Distinction



THE PINES
West Byfleet, Surrey
A select development of just three 4 & 5 bedroom homes built to a high specification in Gothic Revival Style in a quiet residential road.
Last 4 Bedroom home remaining at £495,000 Tel: 01932 354494

SHERBORNE FIELDS
Near Basingstoke, Hampshire
A NEW development of 2, 3 & 4 bedroom homes with a variety of elevations and floor layouts set on the edge of the attractive village of Sherborne St John
SHOW HOME NOW OPEN
Price range: £97,500 - £200,000
Tel: 01256 472131





WHITTINGTON PARK
Wantage, Oxfordshire
4 bedroomed detached executive homes of differing styles and layouts near the market town of Wantage. Easy access to Oxford and Newbury
Price range: £137,000 - £200,000
Tel: 01235 772817

Available Now
- 3 & 4 bed detached homes in High Wycombe. Price range: £172,500 - £225,000. Call 01494 530675
- New build and conversions in Winkfield, Nr Windsor with 4 and 5 beds. Price range: £400,000-£1,000,000. Call 01344 891753
- 4 and 5 bed homes at Woodley Near Reading. Price range: £257,500-£299,500
- New, Listed Barn and Barn Conversions in Iver, Bucks. Price range: £115,000-£175,000. Call 0118 942 6488
- Farnell Mews, Weybridge, Surrey. 2 Duplex Apartments, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms plus study. Priced at £169,950. Call 01932 830800
- Swan Court, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. Price Range: £145,000-£165,000. Call 01252 842759
- Oddfellows Court, Newbury, Berkshire. 1 & 2 bed apartments. Price Range: £65,000-£93,000. Call 01635 263000

Available Soon
- 2 bedroom apartments & town houses in Barnes, SW15. Call 0181 748 2641
- 3 bed town houses in Sydenham, London SE26. Call 0181 778 3699
- Mansion house set in 3.5 acres, with indoor pool in Wentworth. Call: 01256 840074
- Large 6 bedroom, 3 storey detached family home in Putney. Call 01256 840074

Sales Offices Open Daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm
www.bewley.co.uk

Westbury
In South Devon we have just released our new executive homes in
Teignmouth
There are just 9 homes in total, well placed for the town and handy for the main road to Exeter – all built to Westbury's high standards with a sumptuous specification and generous sized plots.



For details call (01626) 351101.
5 bed detached homes from £205,000.
Artist's impression of a typical Westbury 5 bed detached home.

NEW HOMES

CHARLES CHURCH
Quality Homes of Character...



HERTFORDSHIRE

NORTHAW – Northaw Valley
Just released, five bedroom country homes at this prestigious development, secluded amongst acres of woodland, with panoramic views across the valley and approached via a long sweeping private driveway. Prices from £599,950.
Telephone 01707 642667.
Sales office open*.

ARKLEY – The Grange
Just three remaining, five bedroom country homes set in rural seclusion in attractive greenbelt countryside. Easy access to the M1 and M25. Prices from £435,000.
Telephone 0181 441 2492.
Showhouse open*.

BUSHEY – Phoenix Court
Just released, 4 four and five bedroom detached homes with views over the golf course.
Prices from £319,950.
Telephone 0181 950 6885.
Sales office open*.

CHESHUNT – Burleigh View
An inspiring development of 18 traditionally built five bedroom homes in 9 elevational styles featuring excellent specification. Easy access to the M25 and Cuffley and Cheshunt BR stations.
Price guide from £289,950.
Telephone 01707 872500.
Sales office open*.

WATFORD – Langley Place
An exclusive development of 22 four bedroom townhouses situated within a short distance of Watford town centre. Easy access to the M25 and M1.
Prices from £199,950.
Telephone 01923 222212.

HAMPSHIRE

STUBBINGTON – Spring Walk
Spring Walk boasts three, four and five bedroom homes in traditional elevational styles. Prices from £116,000 – £189,000.
Telephone 01329 662565.
Showhouse now open Thursday – Monday 10am – 6pm.

BERKSHIRE

EARLEY – Woodland Grove
An exclusive development of 4 five bedroom homes in 3 elevational styles. Prices from £310,000. Only two remaining.
Telephone 0118 9352555.

SURREY

SURBITON – Southborough Gardens
Set in private grounds featuring two and three bedroom apartments and three and four bedroom townhouses.
Two bedroom apartments from £165,950.
Four bedroom townhouses from £279,950.
Telephone 0181 390 4004.
Showhouse open*.

LONG DITTON – Kingfishers
Imposing four bedroom townhouses and two and three bedroom apartments and penthouses.
Apartments from £240,000.
Townhouses from £350,000.
Telephone 0181 398 3662.
Showhouse now open*.

BISLEY – Byron Place
A development of 11 two and three bedroom homes in 2 popular housestyles. Price guide from £111,000 – £149,950.
Telephone 01483 481578.
Sales office open Saturday – Sunday 10am – 6pm.

CARSHALTON – Woodcote Park
Set in acres of rolling countryside, just 36 substantial four and five bedroom homes in a variety of traditional elevations and designs.
Five bedroom homes from £375,000.
Telephone 0181 770 0916. Sales office open*.

SOUTH NUTFIELD – Chestnut Grove
Set in a beautiful Surrey village, 4 magnificent five bedroom detached homes with superb specification.
Price guide from £399,950.
Telephone 01737 768164.

*All sales offices and showhouses are open daily from 10.00am to 6.00pm

Prices and availability correct at time of going to press.

... from the strongest of foundations

For further details of current and forthcoming developments, please call any of our site sales offices listed for a copy of our latest Sales Directory.

Once they were kept to be eaten, now they live in the house. **Carol Price** charts the rise of the pet rabbit

From the cooking pot to the couch

Beaton is 14lb of New Zealand White bunny with a passion for watching television, listening to CDs of Gregorian chants and generally lolling about the sofa with his owners, the actress Toyah Wilcox and her musician husband, Robert Fripp, at their Wiltshire home.

Not for him the customary outdoor mini-stalag complex with only a carrot for company. Beaton is one of those progressive modern indoor bunnies that the British Houserabbit Association has recently been urging us to have — fully integrated into the domestic environment, with his own litter tray.

Miss Wilcox says: "It's criminal to stick rabbits in hutches at the bottom of the garden. The more freedom and affection you give them, the more personality they develop and the more sociable and intelligent they become."

> 'It's criminal to stick rabbits in a hutch in the garden'

The status and popularity of rabbits is rising steadily. Animals that, only 30 or 40 years ago, were kept for the cooking pot are now the nation's third most popular pets, after cats and dogs. Three million rabbits are kept as pets in Britain.

Such popularity has led to a choice of more than 50 rabbit breeds. The smallest — the Netherland Dwarf and Polish varieties — can weigh only two-and-a-half pounds and the biggest, like the Finnish Giant or Vienna Blue, can be the size of a corgi.

Anne Mitchell, of the British Houserabbit Association, says: "Miniature and lop-eared varieties seem to be most in demand." This includes the classic English lop: a rabbit which, to the non-specialist observer, appears to have ears like windsocks.

You have to be a true bunny expert like John Self, president of the British Rabbit Council, to appreciate their finer attributes. Mr Self, who is a veteran show rabbit judge and rabbit breeder — which surely has to be one of the easier achievements on earth — defines a top-class bunny as having "a good head and body shape, coat quality and pattern, clear bright eyes, hardness of flesh, clear feet and general good health". Sadly, many of us are not quite so clued up when we spot that little bunny in the pet shop. We do not realise the range of health problems that rabbits face. Here is a taster: "Dear *Fur & Feather* magazine. I have an 18-month castrated lop buck who has always had problems with a sticky bottom . . ." It gives you the idea.

But worse still seems to be the discovery that when a rabbit reaches sexual maturity — at around five months — it undergoes violent hormonal mood swings, known in the trade as "Bunny PMT". Fighting or mating seems to be the only thing on their minds, and they become rather trying. "The does are the worst," says Ms Mitchell. "They get grumpy and aggressive. Bucks just rush around the place spraying everything."

Many people might give up on rabbits at this point, unaware of how neutering and spaying can turn bunnies back to their sweeter selves. Miss Wilcox has only ever kept one rabbit at a time — always male — since the age of seven, "because my sister had two once, and after three months she had 17, all charging around this garden in Wimbledon mating with each other. There seemed no end to it."

She believes that bucks are better-natured then does, though Beaton — who has not been castrated — views the Wilcox/Fripp home as a *ménage à trois*. "He sleeps in the bedroom with us," says Miss Wilcox, "and he knows the difference between the human sexes, and a bit of male territorial-type spraying goes on.

"Often he'll spray the chair Robert has just been sitting on. Once Robert came home to discover he'd unwittingly spent a whole morning at the bank, round the shops and on other errands with Beaton's pee streaked down his trousers and he got rather annoyed. Yet when I'm away Beaton and Robert are inseparable. Rabbits are great, affectionate company even if they don't do much. You can get very attached to them."

DEAN A. STOCKINGS



Toyah Wilcox with Beaton: "He sleeps in our bedroom"

Ms Mitchell who provides a helpline for the British Houserabbit Association and runs a rabbit rescue centre in Sussex, thinks that the steady tide of unwanted and abandoned rabbits in this country could be much reduced if owners had better welfare knowledge before buying them. She says: "The BHA is against the sale of rabbits in pet shops because they cannot always sex them correctly or provide full enough after-sale advice. It is better to get one from a reputable breeder."

- *For information on rabbit care, contact the British Houserabbit Association helpline (01403 267658) or the Rabbit Charity (0181-888 0001), which publishes a newsletter on rabbit care. For details of reputable rabbit breeds, contact the British Rabbit Council: 01636 676043.*
- Fur & Feather *magazine: 01473 652789.*
- *For a free copy of* Top to Tail, *a guide to rabbit care, send an A4 sae to: Pet Plan, West Cross House, 2 West Cross Way, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9DX.*

LOOK AFTER YOUR RABBIT

- Rabbits are incessant chewers so electricity cables should be protected with plastic piping or hidden under carpets. Remove potentially poisonous houseplants.
- *Your rabbit will need its own secure living quarters indoors.* Hutches should be a minimum of four times the adult size.
- Start litter tray training by putting the tray in the rabbit hutch. Place some already soiled litter in it. Make sure he has got well used to using it before bringing him indoors.
- Start his forays indoors under close supervision and for limited periods — ten minutes to begin with — building up to longer ones. Prevent furniture destruction by giving something else to chew such as cardboard or newspaper.
- Clumsy handling, particularly by children, can easily break rabbits' backs and is a reason why many have to be put down each year. Let them come to you on their terms. Also be aware that some dogs (furchers, for instance) may not be safe with rabbits.
- *For fuller details on the above, send an sae to the British House Rabbit Association, PO Box 346, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE99 1FA.*



Rabbits are now Britain's third most popular pets: easy to keep and to walk

A VET WRITES

Q I hear it is "Worming Week". Is this a gimmick to sell wormers or should I take it seriously and worm Sheba, my four-year-old spayed Labrador. I've never seen any sign of worms from her. Blackie, my cat, gets tapeworms occasionally but one tapeworm tablet seems to get rid of them and he's never ill.

A You should worm Sheba. Not for her sake but because there is a remote risk of children picking up roundworm larvae from soil or grass contaminated by dog faeces. Adult *Toxocara* (roundworms) live in the dog's intestines. They are 3-8in long, pale beige in colour, round in cross section and look like a piece of plastic-covered wire. The worm eggs pass out with the dog's motion.

After a few weeks or months, depending on the temperature, the eggs hatch into larvae. When a dog swallows these they pass into his bowel where the adult worms live. But they don't stay there. They set off on a circular tour. Through the bowel wall, into the blood stream, wander through the muscles, liver and lungs, up the windpipe to be swallowed again to return, as young adults, to the intestine. Some larvae stop on the way and encyst in the muscles to resume their journey when a bitch becomes pregnant. They can cross the placenta to infect puppies before they are born.

That's the normal life cycle of *Toxocara*. But children can pick up the worm. By dropping a lollipop on infected grass and licking it clean, or eating a sandwich with unwashed hands after a game of football. Then the larvae are in an unsuitable host. Most don't develop further and do no harm. A few start to migrate, and get lost. In rare instances they reach the back of the eye, damage the retina and sight in that eye. Usually temporarily, but other times there is permanent damage. It is rare. Less than 50 children per year, but a most unhappy happening for those few. That's why you should worm Sheba at least twice a year: to be a responsible dog owner and do your part in making *Toxocara* an endangered species.

Blackie's tapeworms are no risk to human health and not likely to upset the cat either.

Q Where can I get a Halti? My dog won't stop pulling when he's on a lead and I'm told this halter type head collar will stop him. But my pet shop doesn't know what I'm talking about.

A Haltis are stocked by many pet shops, so try some others. If you're unsuccessful write to The Company of Animals, PO Box 23, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0PU. Make sure you get one that is the right size for your dog.

JAMES ALLCOCK

- *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. He regrets that he cannot reply to letters personally.*

Not enough room to swing a cat

Keeping a house full of animals is not good for them or healthy for you, says **Jo Carlowe**

When Nigel Shelton, an RSPCA inspector, received keys and a letter stating: "I have left my cats. Can you sort them out?" he expected a run-of-the mill inspection.

He visited the abandoned council flat in Bow, East London, and, noting the over-powering catty stench that hit him on approach, he anticipated a find of about 20 cats. However, he was not prepared for the sight that greeted him — cats everywhere. He counted 97.

Just down the road in Poplar, Mr Shelton's colleague, inspector Mark Martin, was dealing with a similar case. A Tower Hamlets animal warden had contacted him about a woman causing an environmental nuisance.

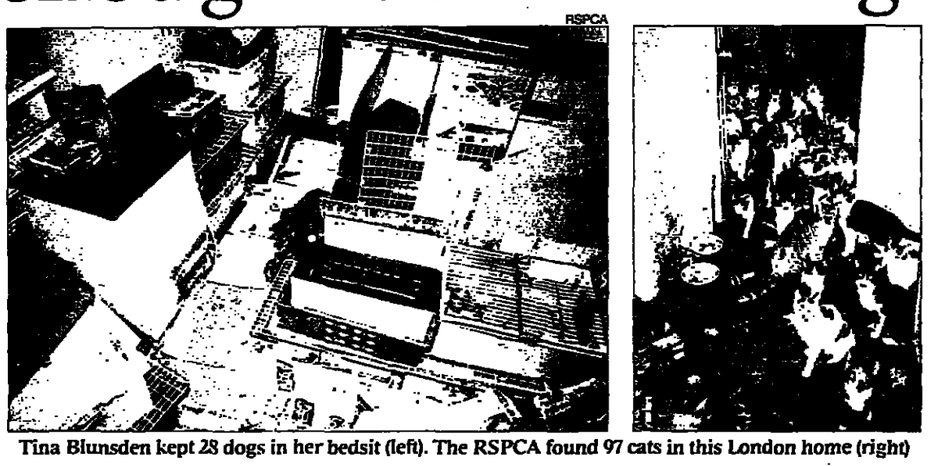
The woman, a pensioner, had accumulated 75 cats. "It was a bit whiffy in there. The woman was devastated when we said they'd have to go, but she realised she had a problem. I took 34 cats in one go. We let her keep the ones that were too old to reproduce," Mr Martin says.

In both these cases the owners were not prosecuted, unlike Tina Blunsden, 38, of East London. Last week, magistrates ordered Miss Blunsden to pay £1,200 costs and banned her from owning any animals for 12 months after she had been found with 28 Yorkshire Terriers crammed into her 10ft by 12ft bedsit.

The authorities could have imposed a life ban, a £5,000 fine and six months' imprisonment.

However, Miss Blunsden feels that her world has been shattered as all 28 members of her family have been taken to be rehoused. "I kept dogs because I couldn't have children. They were so nice to me — the most important thing in my life. I think a lot of my parents, although they may not think a lot of me at the moment, but the animals come first. My hobby was the animals, my work was the animals. I doted on them all," she says.

RSPCA



Tina Blunsden kept 28 dogs in her bedsit (left). The RSPCA found 97 cats in this London home (right)

Before her encounter with the RSPCA, Miss Blunsden, who is registered disabled, was often seen wheeling a supermarket trolley full of Yorkshire Terriers along the Finchley Road in northwest London — an incongruous figure among the well-heeled Hampstead shoppers.

"I used to exercise the dogs in the trolley. We always had an outing," she says.

Lee Hopgood, the RSPCA inspector who dealt with her case, views Miss Blunsden's activities as an obsession. "She needed to be surrounded by dogs all the time," he says. When he first visited Miss Blunsden at her flat he found 27 dogs, some squashed into storage crates.

The remaining pets roamed free but even then the flat was tiny, with much of the floor space taken up by two beds. Some of the dogs were allowed on Miss Blunsden's bed — "my natural hot water bottles," she calls them.

Mr Hopgood advised Miss Blunsden to cut the numbers down to six, but he returned eight weeks later and found dog number 28. "I'd already paid for it," she says.

Some of the dogs had skin complaints and others were prone to fighting — the air was stifling, and, as a result, Inspector Hopgood felt compelled to act.

According to the RSPCA, multiple ownership is on the increase. Keeping a menagerie of animals in a residential dwelling is not in itself an offence. It becomes one, however, when an animal is mistreated or when the property becomes an environmental health hazard.

Sadly, Miss Blunsden, and other multiple pet owners, are motivated by the belief that they are being kind to their animals. Their failing is not deliberately cruelty but the huge gulf between their perception of helping these pets and their ability to actually do so.

ASHLEY COOMBES



Sian Holt has 13 well-kept cats in her London maisonette

Anne Conybeare, animal welfare officer for Welwyn and Hatfield Council, herself a multiple pet owner, would like the Home Office to introduce compulsory pet neutering, tagging, inoculations and annual inspections for multiple owners.

Some multiple owners, however, are already on top of this and run their menageries successfully. Sian Holt, a professional cellist, keeps 13 cats and assorted rodents in her north London maisonette. Her cats, mostly elderly or disabled rescued pets, are neutered, vaccinated and well-looked after. Her home is clean and does not smell and the neighbours do not complain.

"I think it is quite possible to live with lots of animals and maintain a good standard of hygiene," she says. "This is not just for the cats' sake but also for mine. We have a cat run (in the garden) so they can go out safely without going to the toilet in other people's gardens or being a menace."

But whether a person treats their animals badly or well, with knowledge or in ignorance, the common strand that links many menagerie owners is their disappointment in humanity.

Miss Blunsden, for example, was born disabled and says she has had to endure a lifetime of being taunted. Her dogs, however, show her total acceptance.

Ms Holt, too, says her animals contribute to her sense of self-worth which she did not receive from her parents. "My father left when I was very young and he found it incredibly difficult to show any emotion. If you give warmth to an animal you get it back one-thousand-fold."

As if echoing a theme, Ms Conybeare comes to the same conclusion. "I trust animals more than humans. I have been let down by humans," she says.

Sometimes humans let down their animals as well. While multiple ownership remains unregulated, some pets are being killed by misplaced kindness.

Forget the chocs – give the dog a bone

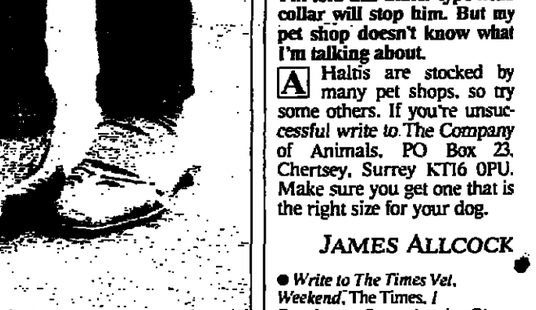
WHILE THIS time of year may be a chocolate-fest for us humans, sharing Easter eggs with our pet dogs could end in disaster. Harsh as it may sound, just 200g of ordinary chocolate could prove fatal to our four-legged friends."

Chocolate intended for human consumption contains theobromine, which reacts with the dog's body systems and can lead to serious heart and respiratory problems. Chocolate poisoning, if not treated, could kill a dog.

Alison Hudd, a veterinary nurse and member of the British Veterinary Nursing Association, explains: "Many dog owners are unaware of the potential dangers of a small amount of chocolate, and this time of year is worrying because there is so much of it around. This calls for extra vigilance around the home, especially if there are children in the household."

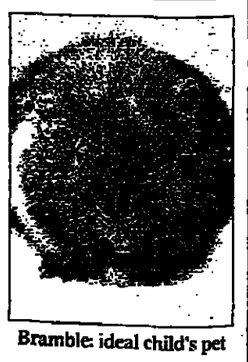
But it doesn't have to be all bad news. There are chocolate-style doggy treats available from most stores and supermarkets, which means that Rover can still share in the Easter fun. For treats, call Hartz (0115-978 4271) or buy Armitage, stocked at your local pet shop. Or give a dog what he likes best: a bone.

NEIL FULLBROOK



ADOPT ME

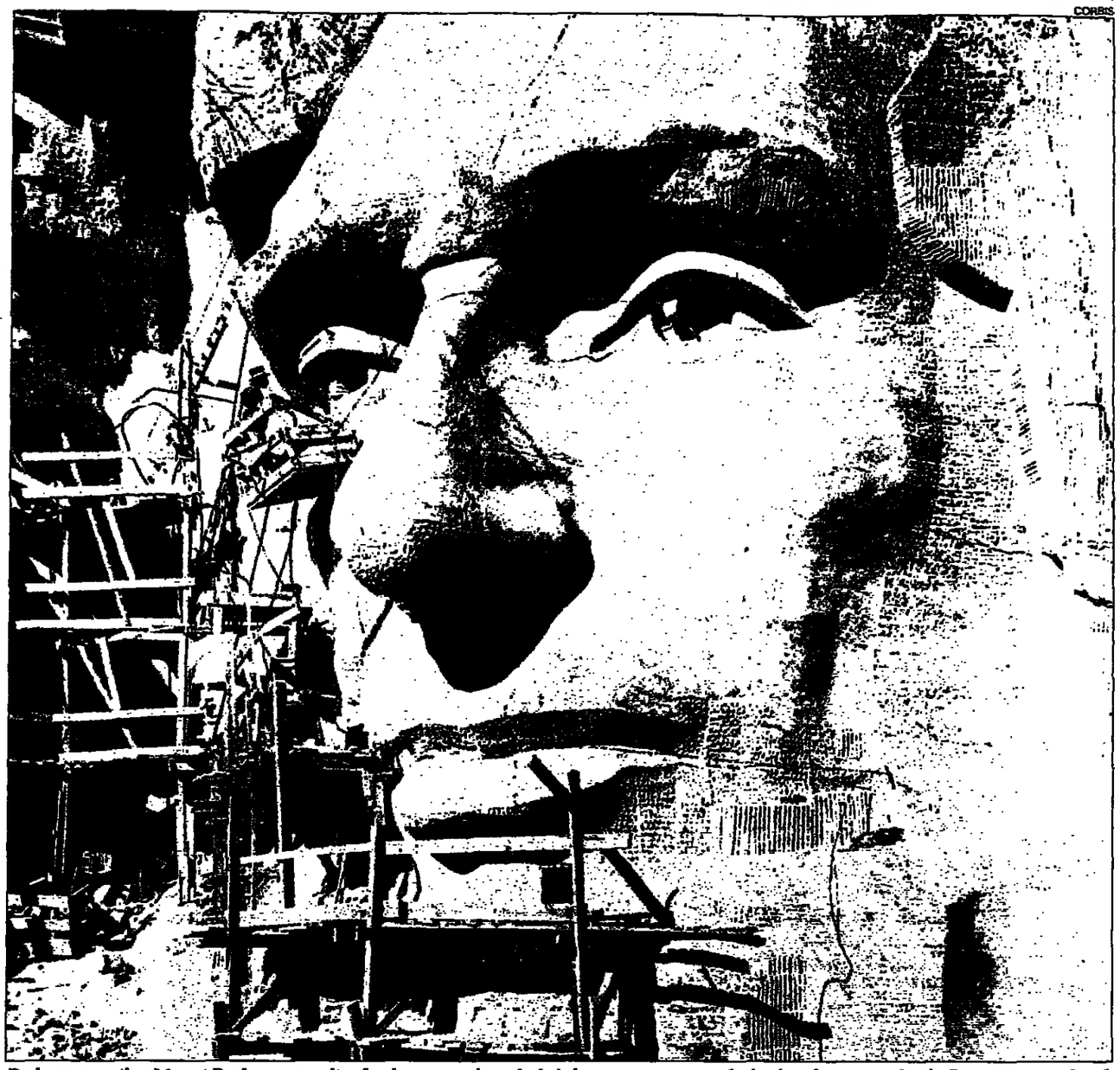
BRAMBLE is a six-month-old brown Agouti guinea pig who was brought in to Wood Green Animal Shelter when his owners moved house. He is very tame, and would make an ideal first pet for a young child, or as a companion to another guinea pig or rabbit. If you would like to adopt Bramble please contact Wood Green Animal Shelter (01480 830014).



Bramble: ideal child's pet

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

Chip away at the old block



CORBIS

Perhaps expecting Mount Rushmore results after lesson one is optimistic but you can master the basics of stone carving in Sussex next weekend

APRIL 17-19

Working with willow. Making bird houses and homes at the Somerset Levels Centre, Burrowbridge (01963 370413). From £135.

Multi-activity breaks. Edale, Derbyshire, at the YHA (01433 670302). Two nights, including full-board, tuition and equipment, from £95.

The soprano in pink: 17th and 18th century song, spinet music and talks. At Audley End, Essex with English Heritage (0171-973 3396). Price £5.75.

Wildlife watch for families; Gardening for wildlife; Otters and other riverside mammals. At the Flatford Mill Centre, East Bergholt, Essex (01206 298283). From £85-£105, inclusive.

Birds of Ley and coast. A birdwatching weekend at the Slapton Ley Field Centre, Kingsbridge, Devon (01548 580446). From £79-£105.

Wine appreciation; The industrial heritage of South Wales; Yoga; Music making for beginners. At various locations this weekend with H.F. Holidays (0181-905 9558). From £124 to £194.

Learn to swim; Entertaining single-handed, how to give a dinner party on one's own, with recipes. Both at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price £149 residential, £103 non-residential.

Belly dancing. At the Mountain Hall, Queensbury, West Yorkshire (01274 816258). Price per course £85 residential, £60 non-residential.

Stone carving workshop. At West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price from £150 residential.

APRIL 24-26

Scottish yoga weekend in the Trossachs. At Lendrick Lodge, Callender, Perthshire, with the Ruth White Yoga Centre (0181-644 0309). From £108.

Motor racing in single-seat racing cars. An introductory course with personal instruction and solo laps. With Anglian Activity Breaks, Norwich (01602 700770). Price £120, accommodation available.

Reading Latin; A jazz weekend; D.H. Lawrence and E.M. Forster; An introduction to world religions. Subjects under discussion at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price per course £120, inclusive.

Memoir writing; Garden sculpture; A George Gershwin celebration. At the Wensum Lodge, King Street, Norwich (01603 66602). Price per course £84, inclusive.

Upstairs, downstairs: life in an English country house; Buddhism and philosophy; Ancient Egyptian religion. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £105 residential, £79 non-residential.

Baskets, bunches and boxes. A flower-arranging weekend at Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincs (01507 522449). Price £86 full board.

Walking in spring. A weekend of guided spring walks, each eight miles long, at Chichester Harbour and the South Downs. Also **Calligraphy for fun** and **Painting and sketching.** All from the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £149 residential, £103 non-residential.

Conservation weekends. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (01491 839766). On the Jurassic Coast of Dorset, repairing the southwest coastal path or fossil-hunting. Price £100 inclusive.

Medieval women; Decorative stained glass; Alexander technique. At Urchfont Manor, Devizes, Wilts (01380 840495). From £99-£104, inclusive.

MAY 1-3

Spring into summer. A four-day health and fitness weekend, with yoga, exercises, workouts, pool sessions and line dancing at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Price £218 residential, £144 non-residential.

Surfing, windsurfing, ski surfing, kayaking, Canadian canoeing, sailing, climbing. At Outdoor Adventure, Bude, Cornwall (01288 361312). Weekend rates from £123, inclusive of full board, tuition and equipment.

A flute weekend; The intermediate cellist. Two courses at the Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts (01462 459446). From £87-£111, inclusive.

Bird song; A badger weekend. Two short courses for nature lovers at the Field Studies Council Centre, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury (01743 850674). From £75-£105.

Advanced bridge; *Don Giovanni*; Patchwork and quilting; Architectural clues. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, Gwent (01495 333777). Price per course £88.

Life and landscape painting; China painting; Bridge; Continental lacemaking. At the Horncastle College, Horncastle, Lincs (01507 522449). Price per course from £86, inclusive.

Inventing, inventors and inventions; German; An introduction to aromatherapy. All this weekend at the Lancashire College, Chorley,. Lancs (01257 260909). Price per course £96.

Learn to play the mandolin in a weekend; Music for mandolin ensembles; Anglo-Saxon literature. At the Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01992 813027). Price per course £85.

Pottery throwing and turning; Wood engraving; Watercolours for beginners; Jewellery making. Courses at the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Price per course £150.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

HULTON DEUTSCH



Damon Hill learnt young from father Graham; take the wheel of a single-seater racing car in Norwich, April 24-26

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

FREE RHS MEMBERSHIP

PLUS FREE ENTRY TO 11 BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

Today *The Times* offers readers the opportunity to become a member of the RHS for four months FREE.
The trial membership covers May, June, July and August. Simply collect four of the six tokens published in *The Times* this week and attach them to the direct debit form, right.

AS AN RHS MEMBER YOUR BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- a saving of up to £10 on tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show (May 19-22)
- a free monthly copy of *The Garden* magazine (worth £2.75)
- unlimited free entry to 26 beautiful gardens throughout Britain including Wisley in Surrey, Rosemoor in Devon and Hyde Hall in Essex.
- plus free gardening advice from RHS experts, the opportunity to apply for free seeds from Wisley Garden and access to the famous Lindley Library for reference and borrowing.

VISIT A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN — FREE

If you do not want to become a member, you can still save up to £5 on the cost of entry at one of the 11 gardens listed below. Simply attach three Free Garden tokens to a voucher published on Tuesday and yesterday, and present them at the garden of your choice or at the RHS Westminster Flower Show.

CHOOSE FROM THESE ELEVEN GARDENS

Visit one of the following before May 31, 1998:

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, Tel: 01483 224234 (normally £5) Mon-Sat
RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, North Devon, Tel: 01805 624067 (normally £4) daily
RHS GARDEN Hyde Hall, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex, Tel: 01245 400256 (normally £3) daily
Ness Botanic Gardens, Ness, Neston, South Wirral, Tel: 0151 3530123 (normally £4) (check times)
Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, Tel: 01203 303517 (normally £2.50) daily
Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Faversham, Kent, Tel: 01795 535286 (normally £2.50) check times
The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, Nr Yelverton, Devon, Tel: 01822 854769 (normally £3.50) daily
Yalding Organic Gardens, Benover Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, Tel: 01622 814650 (normally £2.50) check times
Trebah Garden Trust, Mawnan Smith, Nr Falmouth, Cornwall, Tel: 01326 250448 (normally £3.20) daily
Trewithen Gardens, Grampound Road, Truro, Cornwall, Tel: 01726 883647 (normally £3) daily
Forde Abbey, Chard, Somerset, Tel: 01460 221290 (normally £3.75) daily
Or visit the **RHS Westminster Flower Show**, April 29, 1998, 10am-5pm RHS New Hall, Westminster, London, SW1.

THE TIMES FREE RHS MEMBERSHIP
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TOKEN 6

THE TIMES FREE GARDEN VISIT
THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TOKEN 6



APPLICATION FOR RHS MEMBERSHIP

I would like four months free trial membership. If I decide to join the RHS for a further 12 months, £31 will be deducted directly from my bank account at the end of August. I can cancel the mandate at any time by writing to my bank.

Surname ..... Title ..... Initials .....
Address .....
..... Postcode .....
Daytime tel. no .....

I authorise you until further notice in writing to pay the Royal Horticultural Society direct debits from the account detailed on this form. I understand that the Royal Horticultural Society may change the amounts and dates only after giving me prior notice.

For official use only — RHS membership number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ DIRECT Debit
Originator's code: 888978
Name and address of your bank .....
.....
..... Postcode .....
Bank account in the name of .....
Bank account number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Bank sort code ☐☐☐☐☐☐
Signed ..... Date .....

Return to: The Royal Horticultural Society, PO Box 313, London SW1P 2PE. 1164

Terms and Conditions Applications for membership must be received by April 30, 1998. Four months' free membership expires on August 31, 1998. If you decide to join the RHS for a further 12 months, £31 will be debited from your account at the end of August.

CHANGING TIMES

'One house, whose owners' eyesight was failing, had swarms of mice running across floors, dancing on tables and eating the food'

Too much good will for hunting

DOWN TO EARTH



LUCY PINNEY

Almost every time I turn the television on, a tiny, super-intelligent mouse is performing feats of gymnastics as it outwits two bumbling humans — part of the Easter publicity for the Hollywood film *Mousehunt*.

The scenario rings horribly true, at least in this house. I'm incapable of being brutal enough to repel mouse invasions. I always end up filling humane traps with Belgian chocolate, or sprinkling cayenne pepper around in the hope that it'll irritate the intruders so much they'll decide to leave of their own accord. (It doesn't, of course.)

Given my limitations, I thought it would be useful to meet a professional mouse assassin, so I tracked down John Symonds, who has worked as a pest controller in Dorset for around 18 years.

Lively, bewhiskered and full of charm, he sat by his fireside with a glass of Benedictine and tried to explain the rudiments of pest control. He doesn't do it any more: he's reverted to his old trade of village gravedigger, and I couldn't help thinking that the sense of humour required for the two jobs must be similar.

His favourite task wasn't mouse control — it was fumigating fleas: "Fumigating fleas was fun because you'd go to someone's house, and they'd feel awful — embarrassed — and you'd say, 'Oh, everyone has fleas', and they'd be so pleased. See, if they had rats they could blame the people next door, but you can't do that with fleas."

His particular area of expertise was hornets, and he had a special, ultra-risky method of dealing with them which involved using no goggles or special clothes. "You were supposed to wear protective clothing, but I never did," he explains — instead, an old fertiliser bag, a can of fly spray and a rat spoon were all the tools he needed. A rat spoon is a very long metal spoon for setting bait in inaccessible places: John Symonds's was a three-foot, ex-army serving spoon.

"You had to be brave. Those nests would hang down like a lampshade, and I'd get under and spray up through the hole they were coming out of and then, as quickly as I could, I knocked the nest down with my rat spoon so the whole lot fell into the bag. Fly spray knocks hornets out, but one time I was driving a nest to Beaminster tip in my van and they ate their way out of the fertiliser bag. Made a ripping noise as they ate the plastic — and then they were all over the car."

Although he made a living from destroying them, John is still fascinated by hornet behaviour. He likes the way they work all night on their nests, instead of sleeping, like wasps. And he's noticed that they prefer to build their nests near broken oak branches, so they can eat the sap. He's full of these observations, such as the fact that a mouse can be pregnant with new young while she's still feeding the first litter. But when I asked him if he'd ever come across an especially intelligent and determined mouse, like the one in *Mousehunt*, he snorted: "Intelligence! I was out to poison the buggers, not to think about what they could do!"

He does have a story about a house completely taken over by mice, but it doesn't have the sort of plot Hollywood would warm to. The house was at Sandford Orcas, and the owners were a retired Colonel and his wife, whose eyesight was failing with old age. John was called out by their home-carer, who'd found swarms of mice running across the floors, dancing on the tables and eating the food.

"I put down a poison called Alphachloralose. It has a queer effect. Once the mice eat it they fall about as if they're drunk, then they sit down and laugh at you — and then they swell and blow up. Causes a bit of a riot. Next morning the home-carer made the poor old people toast for breakfast and there was a funny smell. She hadn't noticed there were mice in the toaster. I can never eat toast now."

Unlike me with my half-hearted attempts to get rid of mice, John Symonds never used traps. He used poison because traps are too labour-intensive and need to be inspected every day. He has regrets about this because however carefully he placed bait with his rat spoon, the odd drowsy mouse would inevitably wander into the open and be eaten by a sparrow hawk.

It's a rare poison that doesn't kill a whole chain of animals in the wild according to John. "They always reckoned strychnine killed nine times and zinc seven. And as for moles — they used to say one poisoned worm would kill an acre of moles because moles'll eat one another. It isn't an everyday practice, but it does happen."

John's most grisly story would probably amuse a mouse. It concerns a farm sale he went to a few years ago where one of the lots was an 18th-century mantrap with wicked-looking teeth. After this had sold for a huge sum, John got drinking with the farmer who told him it had been used quite recently. Being troubled by poachers, he'd been unable to resist putting it out in his fields — and caught the village postman.

CHRIS MOORE

A friend in tweed is a friend indeed

Harris tweed has shaken off its fuddy-duddy image. And the crofters have fashion maverick John Galliano to *thank, says* **Heather Kirby**

When John Galliano launched his own Autumn 98 collection and the couture collection of Christian Dior with dramatic outfits made of Harris tweed, glasses were raised in celebration in the Outer Hebrides.

Those few short strolls down the catwalk in Paris were proof positive of the renaissance of a cloth that provides a way of life for hundreds of remote crofters. Finally, Harris tweed has taken on a sophisticated image that appeals to a young generation.

Derick Murray, chairman of the KM Harris Tweed Group, is naturally delighted. "This has been a major breakthrough for us," he says. "In the past, the person who bought Harris tweed was a man in his fifties who probably passed on his jacket to his son. We had to move on from that to survive.

"Having John Galliano use Harris tweed is the best thing that could have happened to us. I am absolutely delighted. The big manufacturers of women's fashion watch what these Paris guys are doing; they work off them."

Galliano himself says that he is greatly pleased with the new Harris tweed. "Creativity knows no nationality," he says of the novel cross fertilisation between Scotland and Paris.

HULTON GETTY



From remote field to high fashion: a crofter at work

In the 1960s there were 2,000 freelance weavers scattered throughout the islands of Harris, Lewis, Benbecula, North and South Uist and Barra. Twenty years ago they were down to 1,200, and ten years ago there were just 400.

The problem for the islanders was twofold: the market for men's jackets in the scratchy, indestructible tweed worn for hunting, shooting and fishing was shrinking; and the manufacturers who supply women's ready-to-wear fashions work on cutting tables that are twice as wide as traditional looms.

Two marketing experts, Susie McHugh and Heather Tilbury, were hired by the KM Harris Tweed Group, an amalgam of three mills: Kenneth Mackenzie Ltd, Kenneth Macleod Ltd and the Harris Tweed Trading Company formed to promote Harris tweed.

A survey conducted by the group among designers, manufacturers and women customers resulted in a demand for softer, lighter, more versatile tweed that drapes and handles well in beautiful colours — and in twice the width.

Large manufacturers who use laser cutting equipment are not geared up to working with a heavy, narrow cloth just 75cm wide instead of the 150cm width they need.

"We visited the islands to explain to the weavers they would have to adapt or die," Mrs Tilbury says. "There was an educational job to be done. No one could sell their fabric if they didn't make it the way designers wanted it. In the fashion world there is a good feeling for Harris tweed — everyone knows it means quality, that it is the only material in the world that is still handmade. But if it does not conform to today's thinking in terms of weight, and cannot be worked with because of the practical difficulty such as the width, then the weavers would be on a downward spiral. And time was running out for them."



So far 135 crofters have bought the new double-width looms

Making tweed from a superfine of 260-280g per square metre to the medium of 333-353g (compared to the old 470g), was the relatively easy part. Designers such as Vivienne Westwood, Bella Freud, Ralph Lauren, Jil Sander, Romeo Gigli, Luisa Beccaria and Versace were tempted to make it up into wonderful suits and dresses. But it is the ready-to-wear industry that offers the potential for growth.

The narrow width was still a barrier to Harris tweed's acceptance in the mass market where they make clothes for the high street. Again the mills, which account for 95 per cent of sales, joined forces, this time to tackle the problem of finding someone who could produce a double loom.

"We contacted a number of companies about developing a new loom but they looked at the requirements, saw the problems and said it was not possible," Mr Murray says.

Eventually they stumbled upon John Griffiths, an industrial designer with a small company in Washington, Tyne and Wear. After a series of trials with the crofters, he invented a new hand loom made of steel instead of cast iron, twice as wide as the old looms, lighter and quieter to use and, at £14,000, not exorbitantly expensive.

So far there are 135 crofters who have decided the investment is worth the risk. More are being trained at Lewis Castle College, Stornoway. Some have decided they are either too old to learn new tricks or are waiting to see if the revolution has really arrived.

Ken Bartolomy, 55, formerly an industrial banker in London and secretary of the Harris Tweed Weavers Association, says: "When I started weaving ten years ago the industry was declining fast. We were impressed by the presentation made to us by Susie McHugh and Heather Tilbury and what they have done in marketing Harris tweed is very much appreciated up here.

"We knew we had to do something drastic and now it looks like it is paying off. My son, Ian, is 30 and he is weaving with me. We feel that there is a future in weaving for us now. The new looms are much easier to handle. They're not so heavy, dirty or noisy and they can produce a very wide range of colours. It all adds up to providing much more interesting work for us."

> 'We feel there is a future in weaving for us now'

Another weaver on the island of Lewis, 58-year-old John Macmillan, borrowed £3,900 to finance his new loom. Mr Macmillan is married with four children, he has been weaving for 30 years.

"I knew that something along these lines would come to us as a result of the demand for single-width cloth going down year after year. The new loom is far easier for us to work on — it's like pedalling a bicycle downhill.

"It cost a lot of money, but I do not regret that. It has been quiet, but I am sure the work will come. We can make tweeds with many colour combinations, as many as you like. We could never do that with the old looms."

From time immemorial the inhabitants of the west of Scotland have made cloth entirely by hand. As the Industrial Revolution reached Scotland, the mainland turned to mechanisation but the Outer Hebrides retained their traditional processes.

In 1884 the Earl of Dunmore, a proprietor of Harris, had the Murray tartan copied by Harris weavers in tweed. It was so successful that Lady Dunmore sold the tweed to her aristocratic friends.

That was the beginning of the Harris tweed industry. Now, with new technology and an endorsement from Paris's golden boy, the renaissance has arrived.





In the '98 collections of Christian Dior (left) and John Galliano (right), Harris tweed is at the cutting edge

Country schools are victims of own success

Rural schools are too crowded, says **Fred Redwood**

They were the bumpkin schools. For generations, secondary modern schools in the countryside provided children with little more than a grounding in the "three Rs" and an introduction to rustic arts and crafts. A look through the 1950 inspector's report on Piggott School, Wargrave, Berkshire, for example, paints a clear picture of its aims and objectives.

"The focus of the life of the school," it states, "is the handicraft and needlework rooms." The report follows up with two observations. The writer worries that "... the incidence of retarded pupils has given cause for concern". But praise is given for their "good country manners". Tugged forelocks, presumably, were a speciality.

How times have changed. Comprehensive education brought the rural schools into line with their urban counterparts. No longer could the town grammar schools cream off the more talented pupils. Now, with increased parental choice, the country comprehensives are an extremely popular option for parents of secondary-age children — even those living some distance away in the towns.

The class of 1950 at the still-rural Piggott School would find it changed completely from their schoolday memories. The present-day school is one of the most successful in Berkshire. Its A-level points score of 17.9 is the best in the area and 25 per cent of entrants last year gained ten grades A-C at GCSE.

Classroom discipline appears not to be an issue: visitors are free to sample lessons in any room they please. After-school activities are various, with music a speciality. And with its light, airy atmosphere and spacious grounds, it is just the kind of school most caring parents seek for their children.

And seek it they do. The Piggott attracts a large percentage of its intake from Reading — a town with a growing reputation for street crime and violence. The pupil roll of 250 in 1950 has expanded to nearly 900 today: 40 per cent of the pupils come from outside the locality.

HULTON DEUTSCH



Country comprehensives are being stretched by the urban children attending them

Dr Keith Atton, the headmaster, understands why his school is so popular: "Parents like a safe rural location. There are fewer malign influences here than in the town."

There is a flip side to the success of rural comprehensives, such as The Piggott. Harrow Way School in Andover, Hampshire, can, in many ways, match the standards of any comprehensive in the country. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has selected it for his Good School Award — one of only 52 so named in Britain. Twenty-five per cent of pupils gain eight or more A-C grades at GCSE. The school has a particularly strong reputation for drama, music and sport.

Yet Harrow Way has seen a steady seepage of pupils going to other schools. Four years ago it had 870 on roll; next year there will be just 715. One reason for this decline in popularity is the competition offered by rural schools.

Andover is a London overspill town, with a concrete centre and huge housing estates. But close by are the chocolate-box villages of the Test Valley.

Buses now run children the 18 miles from Harrow Way to The Clere — a country school situated near the horse-racing village of Kingsclere. Others choose Whitchurch: a town associated with the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning.

Many prefer the eight-mile journey to pretty Stockbridge. Chris Overton, the head teacher, describes the effect this is having on his school.

"It's demoralising for my staff when, despite all their achievements, more parents opt for other schools," he says. "The shrinking roll affects our budget, which could mean we won't be able to maintain our present high standards."

The increased popularity of rural comprehensives threatens to destroy the small-school ambience which is their most attractive feature.

Peter Harman was a teacher at The Piggott in the early Sixties. There was a farm and an orchard, with immaculate gardens tended by every boy in the school in those days. Mr Harman has mixed views about recent changes.

"This is a very good school today but it was more of a family in the Sixties. The teachers were closer to the children. It's not like that anymore — The Piggott has lost its country identity, with in-comers from the towns."

For many schools then it is a no-win situation; the more pupils attend a school, the less attention each child receives. And the more brighter children who travel from urban areas, the harder it is for local schools to improve standards.

هكذا من الأصل

Horror on the highway

Roads are becoming more perilous for riders, says Carol Price

The evening of June 28, 1995, was clear and bright. It was also the evening that Terrapin, a beloved bay gelding belonging to Ellie Hill, international secretary of the British Horse Trials Association, lost its life on the B4086 between Banbury and Warwick.

Miss Hill, an experienced rider who prides herself on safety awareness, is haunted by the memory. "A car suddenly came up behind me and Terrapin, on a straight bit of road, at such speed that it shunted us 20ft on the bonnet before stopping." After blacking out she came round to find her horse had two broken back legs and horrific injuries to his hindquarters.

She says: "Words cannot describe the horror of seeing a horse you love in that state. It was an hour before a slaughterhouse man came to shoot him and told me to kiss him goodbye." The driver later had seven points added to his licence and was fined £200. Miss Hill has since seen three post-trauma psychotherapists and says she will never ride again.

Are modern roads becoming increasingly dangerous for riders then? The British Horse Society and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents think so. Roger Vincent of Rospa says that more than half the accidents involving horses happen on quiet minor roads, not main ones.

The British Horse Society says official estimates for the number of accidents on roads involving horses and riders — 3,000 a year, in which 16 riders and more than 100 horses are killed — are nowhere near the real picture.

This is because, until only week ago — and after BHS pressure — police forces around the country were not obliged to categorise horse-related accidents as a separate statistic. With real figures now replacing "guesstimates", next year's figures could soar unless greater safety awareness can be instilled into drivers and riders.

A combination of factors seem to be making the roads more perilous for riders. There are far more cars on the road: 22 million now, as opposed to 17 million ten years ago.

Lesley Billingham, the BHS's director of safety, thinks that cultural changes in the countryside have also contributed. She says: "Many people living in the country come from the town and do not have a country person's understanding of horses. They drive too fast or too close to them and get frustrated at the slightest delay."

Michael Johnson of the AA says: "It is unfair to assume that urban drivers are worse than rural ones, or have any less perception of possible hazards. But some drivers don't realise that a horse is not just another vehicle, but a sensitive, unpredictable animal than can take fright. And riders could do more to make themselves seen and ensure their signals are understood."

Letters are coming in to the BHS daily from distressed riders who say that caution and road sense have offered them little protection against drivers lacking the same assets. People like Jo Stone, of Okehampton, Devon, who says: "No amount of road safety training helped when a car came straight round a corner and into me and my horse, Tinder, breaking his leg. A vet had to put him down on the roadside."

Although riding is a relatively classless pastime, there are riders now beginning to wonder whether their sport, like so many other traditional country pursuits, will be squeezed out by the modern age.

Safety education campaigns may help. But Mr Vincent of Rospa says there is still no substitute for common sense. He says: "Anyone who goes out on the road should be ready for the worst to happen, and leave themselves enough leeway to stop or react."

Miss Hill remains hopeful. "If just one horse or rider is saved by people reading what happened to me, then my horse won't have died in vain."

● For details of the BHS Riding and Road Safety Test write to: The British Horse Society, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2XZ (01926 707700).

DRIVERS	RIDERS
■ Approach horses slowly and carefully.	■ Make sure you can be easily seen.
■ Remember hand signals.	■ Wear a good hat.
■ Do not toot your horn or rev your engine.	■ Make clear signals.
■ Never cut in too quickly after overtaking.	■ Avoid busy roads in rush hour.
■ Give a wide berth.	■ Keep traffic-shy or young horses on back roads.
■ Be patient.	

COLLECTIONS



A hundred horses and 16 riders are killed every year

A BOLT FROM THE BOYS IN BLUE

RECEIVING a speeding ticket in Richmond Park is not unusual. The deer sanctury is well policed and has strict speed limits. But receiving a ticket for going too fast on a horse was a shock.

The horse in question (which shall remain nameless) had a nice nature, which it never once revealed to me, but which saved it from the knacker's yard when a broken leg ended his promising racing career.

One morning, as we trotted skittishly round the track, his roving eye focused on a crisp packet. He found the sight so horrific that he shot off like an equine cannonball.

Naturally, I made strenuous efforts to apply the brakes, but inadvertently adopted a more aerodynamic posture. At first I was terrified, but after a while, with a clear field ahead, the primal combination of speed, fear and eerie silence was pleasantly refreshing. I began to enjoy myself.

The two officers from the Royal Parks Constabulary mounted patrol were clearly surprised to see a race horse and ill-dressed jockey fly past.

Inevitably, they gave chase, but the horse just doubled its efforts. Each time the horse slowed, the police would draw level and then the horse would speed up again.

Eventually, exhaustion took its toll and we came to a standstill. The officers took down my details and wrote a formal warning.



Sorrel Downer: reined in

Penalties for galloping in the Royal Parks range from a warning — which goes on file and serves as a previous conviction should you be caught again — to a summons and court appearance. The penalty depends on whether your horse bolted, or you were just having a good old gallop.

As the WPC assured me: "Someone on a bolting horse looks in a state of panic." I'm safe, I thought. "But you looked like you were enjoying it," she stated. "Well, I was," I answered, perhaps rashly. "I mean, I wasn't. It can be quite exciting really, going so fast."

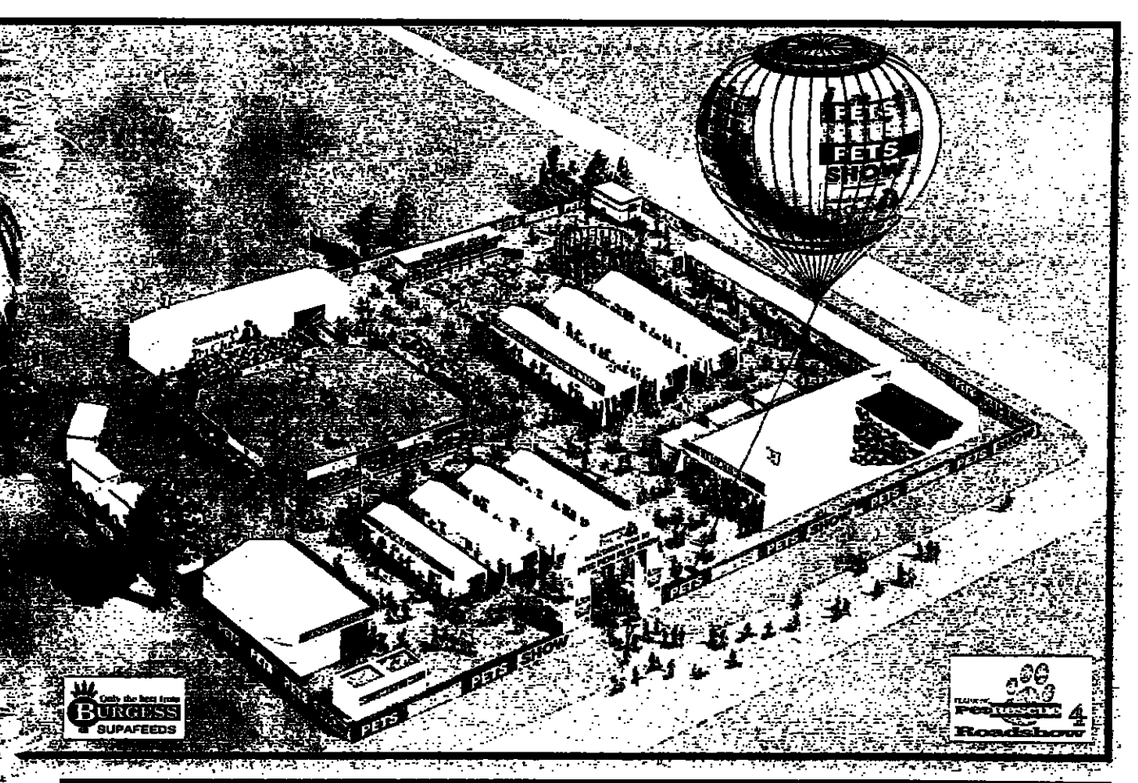
I came away with the impression that all horses have a hidden agenda. Equestrians who think they are in control are being taken for a ride.

SORREL DOWNER

READER OFFER

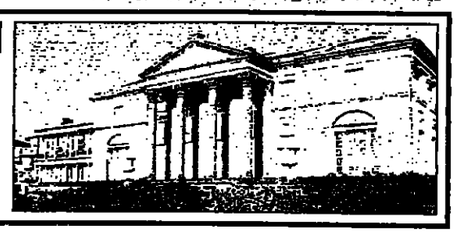
THE TIMES

The ultimate event for pet lovers



SEE PETS PETS PETS AT STATELY HOMES

May 2-4:	Tatton Park, **Cheshire**
May 16-17:	Wollaton Park, **Nottingham**
May 30-31:	Highclere Castle, **Berkshire**
June 6-7:	Harewood House, **Leeds**
June 20-21:	Knebworth, **Stevenage**



TICKET HOTLINE 0121-7674353
Open Sat-Sun 10am-8pm Mon 12noon-8pm Tues-Fri 9am-8pm

PETS PETS PETS SHOW
Sainsbury's Pet Club

Today *The Times* invites pet-loving readers to visit Pets Pets Pets, a series of five weekend shows in May and June, to be filmed by Channel 4.

Times readers can purchase a family ticket for five for £12.50 when they book in advance by calling the hotline. You will receive an exclusive goody bag which includes, among other things, a free show guide worth £1 and a coupon which entitles you to a ten per discount on items at the Pet Rescue Stand. In addition, when readers book quoting *The Times* they will be entered into a free prize draw to win five years' supply of pet food from Burgess Supafeeds. The company, founded by the Burgess family in the 17th century, manufactures food for pets from hamsters to horses.

The Pets Pets Pets shows, in association with Sainsbury's Pet Club, will feature an exciting range of events. In the outdoor animal arena the programme ranges from terrier racing, to hawk and eagle flying and sheep dog demonstrations. An indoor theatre will feature sessions on cats' behaviour, dog grooming and how to have healthy rabbits as well as advice about keeping parrots or snakes.

There will also be an animal clinic where an animal hospital will be recreated, but readers cannot take their own sick pets to be treated.

The television series, to be called *The Pet Rescue Roadshow* will be screened later in the year over 30 weekday evenings on Channel 4. The shows will be hosted by Wendy Turner, presenter of the popular *Pets Rescue* programmes which attract some two million viewers.

CHANGING TIMES

MEN

DOES YOUR SIZE & POTENCY MATTER?

Our FREE report brochure details completely SAFE & NATURAL techniques you can use in your home to enlarge your penis and improve your potency. Developed by Harley Street & World Wide Experts.

NO SURGERY OR INJECTIONS REQUIRED

Our many testimonials prove excellent results within 4 WEEKS

ACT NOW to receive your FREE report (send under plain and confidential cover)

Send 2 x 1st class stamps to:
Dash Publishing (Dept TM),
Freepost, PO Box 22 Plymstock,
Plymouth, PL8 2BR

The 'Sheila Maid'

CAST IRON AND NAUSEAL PINE CLOTHES AIRER

Everything you need to install this 'Energy Saving' Airer.
48 hr Despatch
Home Deliveries Worldwide.
Est. 1976
Trade Account Enquiries UK/Overseas (Dept TM)



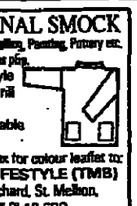
THE TRADITIONAL CURVED SHAPE
10ft/2.7m RAIL WITH CAST IRON RACK ENDS
4 PINE, HAND FINISHED ROUNDED EDGE RAILS.
NATURAL LIFE PULLEY CORD, SCREWS & PLUGS.
RACK ENDS, PULLEYS, CLEAT IN 6 COLOURS.

The 'ORIGINAL' (Ceiling Grey Metal Clear Coated)
5ft £35 | 6ft £37 | 7ft £39 | 8ft £41
COLOURS (Ceilings Red, Blue, Green, Black, White)
5ft £38 | 6ft £40 | 7ft £42 | 8ft £44
POST/AGE + PACKING ADD £3.
Illustrated details from S.A. Johnson

THE DOMESTIC PARAPHERNALIA Co. Dept.T.
Unit 15, Marine Business Centre, Dock Rd.
Lytham, Lancs. PR8 5AL England
Tel: 0 1253 736334 24hrs. Fax: 01253 795197

TRADITIONAL SMOCK

Ideal for Gardening, Selling, Painting, Pottery etc.
ONLY £16.99 plus p&p



- Round neck style
- 100% cotton drill
- Windproof
- Machine washable
- Hardwearing

White, phone or fax for colour leaflet to:
COUNTRY LIFESTYLE (TMB)
2, Briston Orchard, St. Mellion,
Cornwall PL12 6RQ
Tel. 07071 223550
Fax. 01579 351433

G-D-S Shirts

Safari Wear - Any Size
Individually Made
G-D-S
FREEPOST 9,
THURSO KW14 7YB
Phone/Fax 01847 893197
or E-mail
gds.shirts@virgin.net
ACCESS / VISA



bodyflex

ultimate comfort
Adjustable Beds & Chairs
FOR COLOUR BROCHURE FREEPHONE:
0800 7837438

EROTIC CHINESE PRINTS

Ancient and erotic oriental art from the Ming period (206 B.C.- A.D. 1644)
Tastefully reproduced from 'Brides Books'. Originally painted to demonstrate sexual techniques for the young bride and groom.
Printed on fine archival paper.
FULL COLOUR CATALOGUE £5.00
ALLOW 14-28 DAYS
Full cost refunded with first purchase
Send cheque or P.O. to:
Arrowe Marketing,
Pound Lane Trading Est.
Exmouth, EX8 4NW.
01395 - 222108



CAREMOR STAIRLIFTS

For the finest Quality and Service to match
Call Caremor on:
FREEPHONE
0500 104510
For a Free Brochure



"Find out why Stannah is the world's most chosen stairlift."

RAYMOND BAXTER

Free survey. Fast installation. 24-hour call out. Full warranty.
Call or write 0800 715 422 ext. 4462

Name
Address
Postcode
Tel. No.
Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 4462
FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Stannah Stairlifts
The world's most chosen stairlift

SAME DAY DISCREET MAIL ORDER SERVICE — CONDOMS



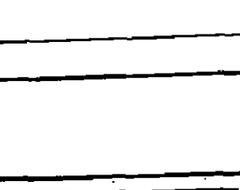
INTRODUCTORY OFFER LOWEST EVER PRICES	Usual Price	YOU SAVE	OUR PRICE
WORLDS BEST, Luxury Assortment Pack (40)	£26.60	£10.60	£16.00
DUREX, Fetherlite (36)	£23.67	£9.67	£14.00
WORLDS BEST, Climax, Size: Medium (40)	£24.45	£8.45	£16.00
DUREX, Extra Safe (36)	£23.07	£7.07	£16.00
DUREX, Gossamer (36)	£20.07	£6.07	£14.00
WORLDS BEST, Sensi Rib, Size: Large (40)	£21.95	£5.95	£16.00
MATES, Natural (36)	£17.95	£2.95	£15.00

Your name will not be recorded in any way. No follow-up mail. We only sell quality condoms. Send your order or send for FREE colour brochure
CHEQUES/PO's to QUICK & DIRECT (Dept TT28/3), FREEPOST (KI4162) WALTON ON THAMES, SURREY KT12 1BR (Tel: 01932 232443)

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

From largest archives saved from the past. Printed between 1642-1998. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Same day dispatch.
REMEMBER WHEN
520 Purley Way,
Croydon, Surrey CR0 4RE.
0181 688 6323

POWER FOR PEDAL BIKES!



When you're tired of pedalling just switch on the SINCLAIR ZETA II and take it easy



The new ZETA takes all the effort out of cycling. Makes headwinds a breeze – takes hills with ease.
No licence, insurance or tax needed.
Let ZETA do all the hard work for you.

- FITTED IN MINUTES
- UP TO 14 mph
- SIMPLE TO USE
- MAINTENANCE FREE
- 12 MONTHS GUARANTEE
- UP TO 30 MILES RANGE
- BATTERY RECHARGED FOR LESS THAN 1p

Hills disappear, headwinds vanish no more pushing

WRITE OR PHONE NOW FOR YOUR FREE BROCHURE
01933 279300
SINCLAIR RESEARCH LTD., (DEPT. TT12)
8 DENINGTON RD, WELLINGBOROUGH NN8 2XL

ANTIQUE REPLICAS



Over 50 dining tables on display in our showrooms made by Master Craftsmen to a standard unsurpassed this century together with 100 styles of Chairs, also Sideboards, Desks, Filing Cabinets, Cocktail Cabinets, TV & Video Cabinets, Leather Chairs, Chesterfields & Looking Glasses. All available in three separate ranges to suit all life styles & income groups.

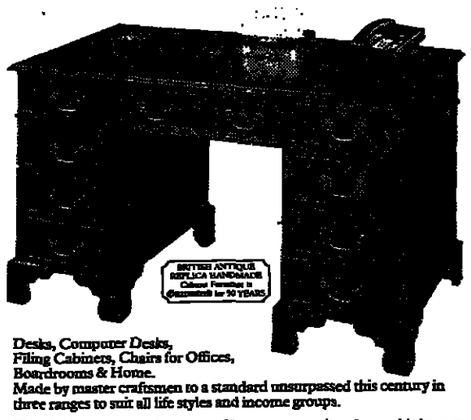


Specialist Export Packing & Shipping Dept.
Visit the Factory & Superstore Showrooms to see the world's largest display of English Antique Replica Furniture or phone for a brochure

20% OFF + INTEREST FREE CREDIT + FREE UK DELIVERY
ALL OFFERS MUST END 30 APRIL 98

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm
32 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL
(BETWEEN GATWICK & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX
Tel: 01444 245577

ANTIQUE REPLICAS



Desks, Computer Desks,
Filing Cabinets, Chairs for Offices,
Boardrooms & Home.
Made by master craftsmen to a standard unsurpassed this century in three ranges to suit all life styles and income groups.

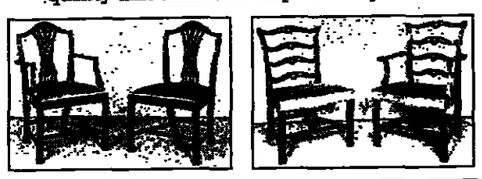
Visit the Factory and Superstore Showrooms to view the worlds largest display of English Antique Replica Furniture or phone for brochure.

20% OFF + INTEREST FREE CREDIT + FREE UK DELIVERY
ALL OFFERS MUST END 30 APRIL 98

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm
32 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL
(BETWEEN GATWICK & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX
Tel: 01444 245577

Recreating the period. Perfectly.

At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere

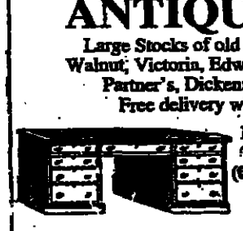




WILLIAM TILLMAN
When only perfection is good enough.
30, St James's Street, London SW1A 1HB
Telephone: 0171 839 2500. Fax: 0171 930 8106
14-24, Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LT
Telephone: 01732 883278. Fax: 01732 884439

ANTIQUE DESKS

Large Stocks of old desks, Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Victorian, Edwardian, Rolltop, Cylinder, Partner's, Dickens and Pedestal Desks.
Free delivery within mainland UK.



DON SPENCER ANTIQUES
WARWICK
(01926) 499857 - (01926) 497989
Mobile 0836 525755
www.antique-desks.co.uk
OLD DESKS PURCHASED
36A, Market Place, Warwick. (Beneath Vintage Antique Centre)
www.antique-desks.co.uk

THE Loden COLLECTION

Traditional style and natural warmth
CLASSIC LODEN COATS AND SHOOTING JACKETS FROM £195. ALSO BREECHES, JACKETS, SKIRTS, HATS AND BAGS IN HUNTING GREEN AND NAVY BLUE.
Tel 017683 53118
FAX 017683 53811 OR WRITE FOR YOUR FREE COLOUR BROCHURE



Born for Loden
The White House · Appleby in Westmorland
Cumbria CA16 6XF

Luxury Silk Shirts



Special Offer
£16.95 for one
£11.95 for each extra
Save £5 plus £2 p&p

Luxurious pure silk. Classic style with two pockets, a back pleat, and double stitching. Generously cut. Colours: Red, Black, Navy, Green, Beige, Taupe, Yellow, Coffee, Plum, Crimson, Sapphire, Off white, Cornflower. Collar: 15", 16", 16½", 17½". Smart and comfortable to wear. Hand or gentle machine wash.

FREE Brochure
3 Day Despatch
FOR ORDER OR BROCHURE PLEASE PHONE TEL 0171 274 3387 FAX 0171 346 0088 OR WRITE TO
SILK THREAD Dept TT5538, FREEPOST PO Box 3452, London SE5 9BR
Silkthread, 4 Crawford Mews, 75 Warner Road, London SE5 9HE

Space Saving Propagating & Growing Systems

DUAL PURPOSE PROPAGATING TOWER
* MINI GREENHOUSE *
HOLDS 8 FULL SIZE GROWING TRAYS



TAKES UP ONLY 4 SQ.FT OF FLOOR SPACE

Don't let lack of space restrict your plant propagation plans. Now grow favourite plants on your patio, balcony, in your conservatory or garden.

DRIP TRAYS FIT INTO ALL 8 FRAME SECTIONS AND HOLD SEED & GROWING UNITS!

Strong steel construction, coated throughout in high density polythene for a long attractive life, with a stable solid base. We supply all you need (excluding compost and seeds) to grow and cultivate 144 or more plants with no mess or drying out. Plant seeds in bottom trays, when germinated, transplant to cell units in upper trays. Replant seed trays and recommence growing cycle – The Non Stop Propagation System! Optional, specially constructed polythene cover converts unit into a mini green-house. Easily moved. A quality British product only available by mail order. Height 40" approx.

ONLY £34.95 + carr. COMPLETE

CONVERTS TO A SUPER MINI GREENHOUSE INSTANTLY WITH SLIP OVER POLYTHENE COVER



EASIER GROWING FOR BETTER, STRONGER PLANTS
PRODUCES PLANTS FROM HARDIER FROST AND EXCESSIVE HEAT & SUN
SAVE YOUR FAVOURITE TENDER AND HALF HARDY PLANTS THIS YEAR!
Rigid top frame. 500gms polythene with ventilation holes. Shaded blue to diffuse the rays of the sun to prevent cooking plants. Complete with pegs to secure in strong winds.

Free ACCESSORY GROWING KIT WORTH £12
KIT INCLUDES:
PACK OF 8 DRIP TRAYS
PACK OF 12 12 CELL UNITS
PLANT SEEDS DIRECTLY or TRANSPLANT 144 SEEDLINGS FROM SEED TRAYS
PACK OF 4 SEED TRAYS
1M (3'3") CAPILLARY MATTING
Line drip trays, stops mess, absorbs water, prevents plants drying out.

ORDER BY PHONE 24 HOUR SERVICE
01789 470 055

GREENHOUSE POT-TIDY AND PATIO AND CONSERVATORY STAND
Holds a fantastic 50 Plant Pots
TAKES UP ONLY 2 sq ft OF FLOOR SPACE



Potting-on small plants brings pleasure to many gardeners but we all know how much room is taken up in the greenhouse by all those pots. The Greenhouse Space Saver Pot Tidy solves this problem instantly. Each of the 5 tiers holds 10 x 3" or 4" pots, so that's 50 in all. Ideal for cuttings and raising seedlings throughout the seasons, then potting on and plant display through Spring and Summer.
Take outside to take advantage of rain water or to avoid making a mess in conservatory when watering. Height 45".
Creates a really attractive display in conservatory, patio or garden. Packs away neatly when not in use.

IDEAL GIFT
EASILY MOVED FOR:
- WATERING - RAINWATER
- SUN OR SHADE
- SPACE & LABOUR SAVER

SPECIAL OFFER 50 FREE 3" PLANT POTS WORTH £10

CREATES AN ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY ON PATIO BALCONY OR IN YOUR GARDEN
ONLY £29.95 COMPLETE

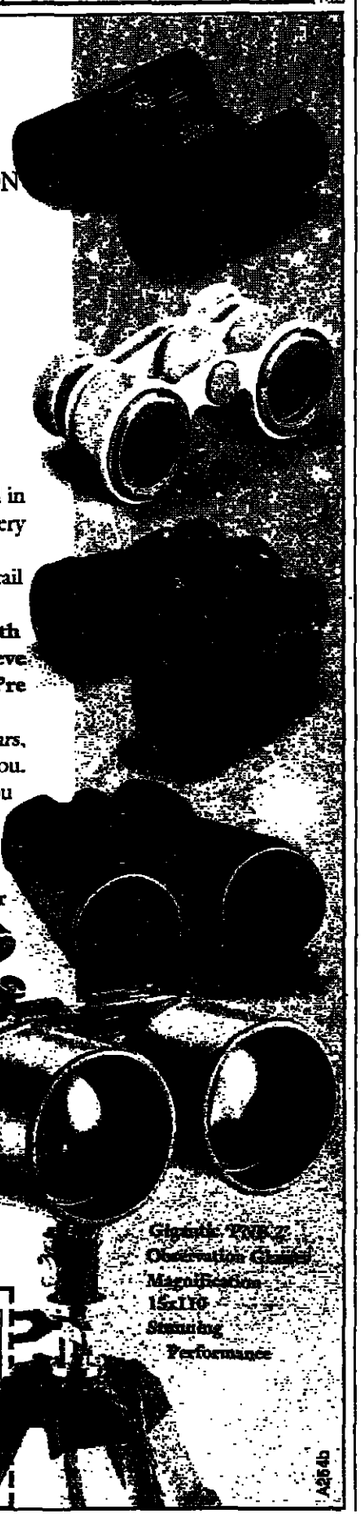
Please allow 14 days for home delivery. Money back if not delighted.
Post Orders to: Cornhill Marketing Limited, (Dept TB15), 10 Lowes Lane Industrial Estate, Wallasbourne, Warwicks CV35 9RR.

To: CORNHILL MARKETING LIMITED, (Dept TB15), 10 Lowes Lane Industrial Estate, Wallasbourne, Warwicks CV35 9RR. PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Please send me:
Qty. ___ PROPAGATING TOWER(S) at £34.95+£2.95 carr. (Total £37.90) INCLUDING ACCESSORY GROWING KIT WORTH £12 SENT FREE WITH ORDER.
Qty. ___ CONVERT TOWER INTO A MINI GREENHOUSE. SLIP OVER POLYTHENE COVER(S) at £9.95 POST FREE when ordered with Tower.
Qty. ___ GREENHOUSE SPACE SAVER POT TIDY(S) at £29.95+£2.95 carr. (Total £32.90) INCLUDING 50 x 3" POTS WORTH £10 – SENT FREE WITH ORDER.
I enclose a Cheque/P.O. for £ ___ or charge my Access/Visa/Delta/Switch Account.
My Card No. is
Expiry Date: ___ Signature:
Switch Card Issue No.
Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms
Address:
Post Code:
If you are not delighted with our goods please return them within 14 days in original condition and we will refund your money in full. If you do not wish your name to be passed on to other companies please write to us. Co. Reg. No. 2484464

Estd 1800ad Sewills

INTRODUCING SEWILLS HELIOS OPTICAL COLLECTION

Real craftsmanship and expertise from the world's oldest nautical optician



The 'Helios Optical Collection' has been carefully selected and designed in keeping with the exacting standards of Sewills and the very latest optical technology.

10 YEAR GUARANTEE

You'll quickly notice the extra care and attention to detail which go into every pair of Sewills Helios binoculars.

The best British developed 'BaK-4' prisms with multi-coated lens... expertly designed to achieve pinpoint accuracy and real viewing clarity, you're assured of a clearer, sharper image.

Then there's the nitrogen-filled range of waterproof sports binoculars, which guarantee 'fog-free' viewing whatever the elements throw at you. A range of 20 binoculars from lightweight, compact binoculars which you can carry effortlessly over long distances, to our gigantic 'PNB 2' Observation Glasses, complete with sturdy wooden tripod. By contrast, our elegant opera-glasses are an essential accessory for all theatre-goers. With prices from £20 to £2,000 the collection is certain to satisfy your individual requirements at the right price!

Why not take a closer look at this definitive range of binoculars today by ordering your FREE brochure. Simply complete and return the coupon below or, if you prefer, call us on

0151 708 0099

Quote ref: TT1104 Or fax us on 0151 708 6777.
Business hours are Mon-Fri 8.30 am-5.30 pm Sat & Sun 10.00 am-4.00 pm
Answerphone service out of office hours.
Showroom open 7 days a week at Cornhill Email; Sewills@northwest.co.uk.

Gigantic 'PNB 2' Observation Glasses Magnification 15x110 Stunning Performance

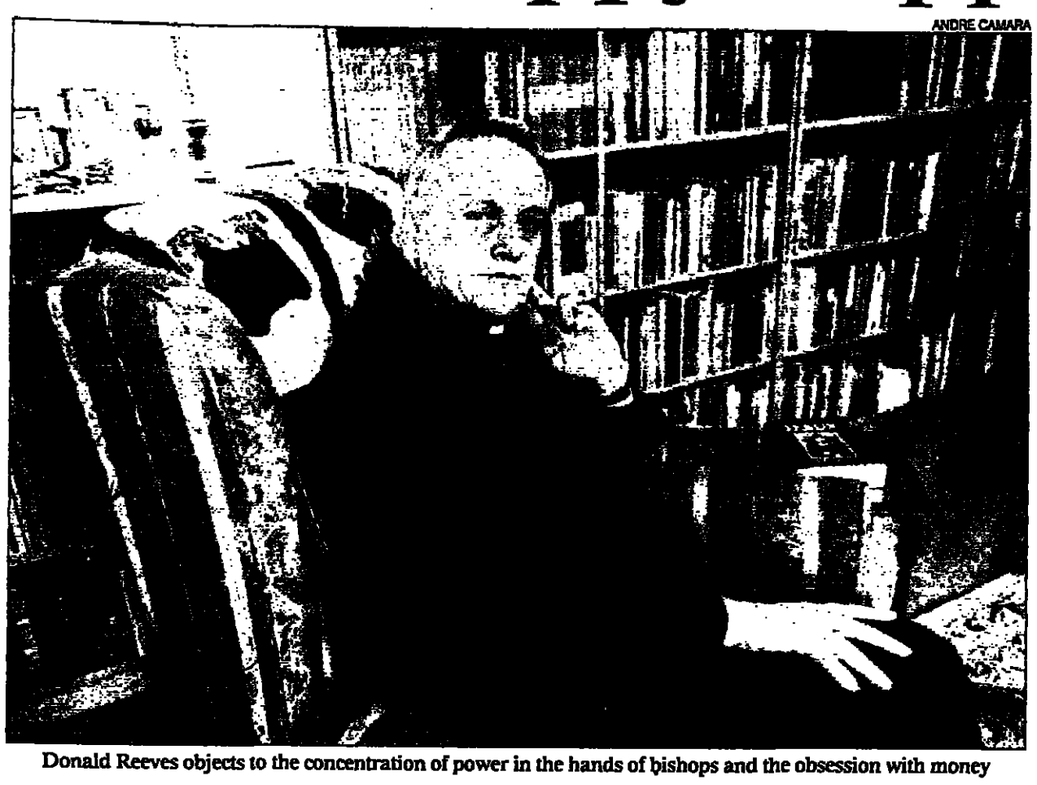
POST TO: SEWILLS, CORNHILL HOUSE, 24 CORNHILL, LIVERPOOL L1 8DZ
TT1104
Name: (Mr/Mrs/Ms.)
Address:
Postcode:

A264b

هذا من الأصل

'I hate the happy clappies'

Damian Thompson meets a rector with some strong views



ANDRE CAMARA

Donald Reeves objects to the concentration of power in the hands of bishops and the obsession with money

The most interesting clergyman in the Church of England is preparing to leave his parish. Donald Reeves, the Rector of St James's, Piccadilly, sits back in a battered armchair in his study, drums his fingers on its arms and says, authoritatively: "The Church of England has never trusted me. Never."

He's right. In nearly two decades at St James's, Reeves has amused, horrified and sometimes deeply impressed his superiors. But because they never knew what he was going to do or say next, they kept their distance. It is hard to know what they feel about his departure this summer.

The press, in contrast, knew exactly what to make of Donald Reeves. He was good copy: the "Red Parson", a publicity-hungry lefty who, when he wasn't campaigning against Trident, was hugging trees or inviting feminists to perform "circle dances" inside St James's, one of Wren's most graceful masterpieces.

It was true, some of it: during the 1980 the suspiciously urbane and handsome Reeves was second only to the Bishop of Durham in the virulence of his anti-Tory pronouncements and the boldness of his experiments. But it wasn't the whole picture then, and it is even less so now.

The 1990s have been a difficult decade for Reeves, overshadowed by cancer (from which he is fully recovered) and a growing disappointment with an institution he loves, the Church of England. That is what he wants to talk about today. The concentration of power into the hands of bishops, the obsession with money and growth, the explosion of "happy-clappy" churches such as Holy Trinity, Brompton: all these Careyite phenomena upset him so much that, rather to his surprise, he is beginning to think of himself as orthodox.

"Only numbers and effectiveness matter to our bishops," he says wearily. "There's this dreadful urge to *tidy up* the Church of England, to move away from the radical welcome of God and a national Church to Mickey Mouse religion — cheap, graceless and addictive."

The villains of the piece are not the bishops, says Reeves; he blames wealthy evangelical parishes which, he claims, are effectively holding Carey and Co to ransom. "That's where all this episcopal anxiety about the gay issue comes from," he says. "It's about money. A diocese like Southwark could become insolvent if the evangelicals pull out their money — and that's why Bishop Rowan Williams [tipped for Southwark, but liberal on homosexuality] didn't get the job."

Sandy Millar, vicar of HTB, says he can sign the 39 Articles with a clear conscience, believing in every one — unlike Donald Reeves. Maybe so, says Reeves; but as far as he is concerned nothing that HTB does is really Anglican.

"They are moralistic, sex-obsessed and unkind — more like a cult than a church," he says. "I've no objection to people holding those beliefs. But they are hijacking the Church of England, our buildings and our vicarages. If people want to listen to Sandy Millar, they can do so in a tent for all I care — but not in an Anglican church." He rubs the back of his head crossly. It makes his hair stand up in a sort of grey haystack, giving him the wild look of a prophet.

> 'They want to make the Church into a Mickey Mouse religion'

It is hard to overestimate the depth of the antipathy between St James's, Piccadilly, and Holy Trinity, Brompton (HTB). Both can be fearless innovators; both, with Anglican ingenuity, damn the other by appealing to tradition.

A prophet in the wilderness? That remains to be seen. Reeves's plans involve writing more books, advising multinational companies on ethical investment and setting up an ecumenical network of liberal churches. They do not include a full-time job in the Church of England. At 63, he has been passed over for preferment: not, one suspects, because of his politics, but because he is so complex and unpredictable.

Take his undiplomatic views on the Eucharist. "We're domesticating it, so that we can't do anything without attaching a Eucharist in it," he says. "We're losing sight of it as a public celebration. The sacrifice of Christ is operative for the whole universe. That's why at St James's we pray for other religions, for the broken parts of ourselves: the whole world reunited in Christ."

When he talks about God, Reeves's anger evaporates. When he was ill, he plunged into an intense study of the Bible which, if it provided no easy answers, alleviated the loneliness of his spiritual pilgrimage. He is not attracted by the tortuous near-atheism of Don Cupitt, the radical Cambridge theologian.

"I'm bored by it," he says. "And the same goes for this skimpy New Age concept of 'the God Within'. I want my God to be within, above, beyond, and all the other prepositions."

Reeves's impatience with Cupitt and the New Age may surprise his critics, who imagine services at St James's to be a self-indulgent mixture of liberal Christianity and neo-paganism. To an impartial visitor, however, this seems ludicrously wide of the mark. The improvised poetry which decorates the communion service at St James's only underlines an intrinsic traditionalism. The 1960s sing-songs which disfigure many Anglican services are mercifully banned: Reeves's real passion is for the dance rhythms which flow through the cantatas and trio sonatas of J.S.Bach. More, and better, 18th-century music is heard at Piccadilly today than in the 18th century.

Could this extraordinary church represent the future of Anglican tradition? The paradox appeals to Reeves, but there is a wistfulness about him which suggests that he is not sure his legacy will survive. "I stand in front of the mirror naked and wonder what I have become," he sighs. "And as for the Church . . ." His voice trails off, then he brightens. "Come on," he says. "Let's go and hug a tree."

He who would valiant be



Ruth Gledhill joins a group on a pilgrimage for Holy Week

WE SAT cross-legged around the 6ft by 10ft wooden cross for the early morning Mass. This was a short stopover at St Joseph's, Guildford, on a 90-mile pilgrimage from Winchester to Worth Abbey in Sussex. During Holy Week, the country has been criss-crossed by 17 groups of Christian pilgrims aged from seven to 70, carrying similar wooden crosses to Walsingham in Norfolk, Holy Island in Northumberland and Iona in Scotland, as well as Worth Abbey, a Roman Catholic community of 27 monks and 300 lay supporters.

Apart from his stole, there was little to mark out our celebrant, Fr Aidan Murray, a chaplain at Worth Monastery School and a member of the Benedictine community for 20 years, as a priest. The walkers included members of Worth's lay community and friends. They had done 27 miles the day before and looked exhausted but at peace. Two guitarists, three flautists and a clarinettist accompanied the modern worship songs.

"I imagine we have all come on this pilgrimage for different reasons," said Fr Aidan. "Perhaps it is to prepare for Easter, or to meet friends. Some of us have come as an act of repentance or purification, as the conclusion of our Lenten undertakings."

The Holy Week pilgrimages are a spin-off from Student Cross, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year and which has nine "legs", all ending at Walsingham. Student Cross was begun by a group of youngsters inspired by something similar they witnessed in France. The aims are to celebrate Easter in a different way, to witness to Christ in the modern age, to learn about the country's Christian heritage by walking through Ely cathedral, Melrose and Hexham Abbeys and to obey Christ's command to "pick up your cross and follow me".

Asked what would induce them to endure hours of mud, rain and wind, with not even a hot shower at the end of each day, walkers cite Chaucer's prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*: "When that in April the showers sweet, the drought of March has pierced to the root, then people long to go on pilgrimage."

WE PRAYED for mercy "for the times we have refused to listen to God's spirit" and for the times we had been so obsessed with our own worries that we had failed to be sensitive to the needs of others.

Liz Emmott, 29, who works for Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham health authority, explained why she was regular Holy Cross pilgrim: "I hope it will leave me refreshed and uplifted. I have a very busy job and this reminds me of the important things in life."

● *Worth Cross, c/o Worth Abbey, Crawley, Sussex RH10 4SB (01342 710310). E-mail: amurray@worth.org.uk*

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

CHAPLAIN: Fr Aidan Murray

ARCHITECTURE: Spacious church hall. ★★★

SERMON: On how often we all are mistaken ★★★★

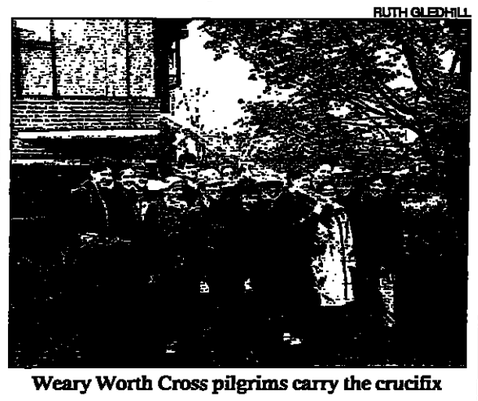
MUSIC: Simple songs ★★

LITURGY: Bnef Catholic Mass ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Down-to-earth. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Walkers cook themselves supper ★★★

RUTH GLEDHILL



Weary Worth Cross pilgrims carry the crucifix

Out of the darkness comes the light of Easter

Credo

JOHN HALDANE

Recently I saw a set of sculptures by the Indian-born artist Anish Kapoor. Next month residents and visitors to London will have the opportunity, at the Hayward Gallery, to view a major exhibition of his work of the past 20 years. I recommend they take it. Kapoor came to notice for installations that seemed to evoke Hindu rituals — strange forms arranged on the floor and covered in bright pigment, like heaps of dyed rice or powdered spices assembled for a religious festival.

Since then his art has developed, but the element of spiritual resonance remains. The recent sculptures are hollowed-out blocks of alabaster.

To some they will suggest a duality of matter and spirit. Reflecting on them from a Christian perspective, however, I was reminded of Jesus's tomb. For some Christians the focal point of Easter lies on Good Friday — Christ's passion and death atoning for the sins of mankind. For others it is Easter Sunday: Christ's resurrection from the dead in which "all men are raised up" (St Paul, I Corinthians).

Some months ago, following one of my contributions to this column in which I had mentioned the crucifix, a reformed minister wrote to straighten out my Roman ways, pointing out that for Christians the relevant symbol should be reminded by the image of Christ upon the cross that in the person of Jesus of Nazareth the Son of God entered in to the human condition, even to the point of suffering pain and death.

The fact, of course, is that one needs to hold both aspects in view. In order to see the true meaning of Easter one needs to see it "stereoscopically", keeping both Good Friday and Easter Sunday in sight. The cave-sepulchre is thus a useful point of focus for reflection. The gospels say that the tomb was hewn from rock and that once Jesus had been laid there a stone was rolled against the door. Then, two days later, at dawn, a group of women came to anoint the body but found the tomb empty. A figure said by some to be an angel addressed them: "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" (Luke 24.5). From then on the Gospel writers recount the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus.

That hollowed tomb in the stone of Jerusalem was a site of cosmic transformation. Into it was placed a pierced and broken corpse; out of it emerged a living figure. The God who made the cosmos became incarnate in the flesh of a Palestinian Jew, and in the resurrection the mortality of that human nature was overcome.

St Paul is right to emphasise that this is the basis our hope: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ" (I Corinthians 22-23).

Artists have long tried to depict the resurrection but it hardly lends itself to a naturalistic rendering. Thus my interest in Kapoor's hollowed sculptures. Out of the space of the cold rock emerges light; the same light that originates in the heat of the sun. So, too, Christ through whom all things were made emerges in radiant glory. The darkness sealed in the tomb has given way to the light of Easter Sunday.

Christ is risen.

● *John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.*

Church services tomorrow

Easter Day

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa sancta Albano (Willan); 3.15 Ch E, Harwood in A flat.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Euch, Jackson in G; 3.15 Ch E, Brewer in D; 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Dum transisset (Tavener); 3.30 Festal E, Let their celestial concerts (Handel).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mozart in C, The Bishop of Birmingham; 4 Festal E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart), Bishop of Blackburn; 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd); 11 Euch, Mozart in C; 3.30 E, Harwood in A flat.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Festal Euch, Mozart in B flat; 3.30 Festal E.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Ch M; 11 S Euch, The Archbishop; 3.15 E; 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Stanford in C & F; 3 E & Procession, Responses (Leighton).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 6 Euch; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Bishop of Chelmsford; 11.15 S Euch, Schubert in G; 6 Ch E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch; 11.30 M, Canon Conway; 3.30 Ch E; 6.30 Easter celebration.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 10 M, Vaughan Williams in G; 11 S Euch, Schubert in C; 3.30 E, Harwood in A flat.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Collegium regale (Howells), The Bishop of Oxford; 11.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly); 6 E.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, God liveth still (Bach); 6 Ch E, Dyson in D, Canon G Marshall.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 7.15, 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 HC, The Bishop of Durham; 3.30 E.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Nelson mass (Haydn); 3.45 E, Dyson in D.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.30 M, Ireland in F; 3 E, Magdalen service (Hewitt-Jones); 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 M; 10.45 Euch, The Bishop of Gloucester; 3 Festal E.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide (Wood); 11.30 M, Vaughan Williams in G; 6.30 E.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart); 11.30 M; 3.30 E, Ye choirs of Jerusalem (Stanford).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Stanford in C; 4 Ch E, A: Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Festal Euch, Mozart in D; 3.30 Festal E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, The Bishop of Lincoln; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E & Procession.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 C; 11 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 12.15 HC; 3.30 E, Dyson in D; 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 ... 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Haec dies (Byrd); 6.30 E.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7 Easter Vigil; 9.30 S Euch, Mozart in C, Bishop of Newcastle; 6 Ch E, Stanford in C.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Family Euch, Dum transisset (Tavener); 3.30 Festal E & Procession.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.30, 8.15 HC; 9.30 Sol Euch, Darke in F; 11.30 M, Vaughan Williams in G; 3.30 E, St Paul's service (Howells).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); 11.15 Sol Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 6 Festal E, Dyson in D, Canon D Isaac.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8, 9.30 Euch, This joyful Eastertide (Wood); 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 12.30 Euch; 5.30 E, Day in B flat.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 5 Vigil and Euch; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly); 3.15 E and Blessing, Bairstow in D, M; 10.30 S Euch; 3.15 E.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 5.30 Liturgy; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.45 MP, Easter anthem (Bullock), Very Rev D Watson; 3 Ch E, Gloucester service (Howells).

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais); 3 Ch E, Britten in C.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 6 Liturgy; 7.30 M & L; 8 HC; 10.45 Euch, Darke in F; 3.15 E, Dyson in D; 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 Sol S Euch; 6 Sol E, Stanford in A, This joyful Eastertide (Wood).

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Sol Euch, Easter Alleluia (Taizé); 6.30 Sol E, Stanford in A, Canon R Gage.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 11.30 M, Stanford in B flat; 3 E, St Paul's service (Howells).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart); 3 E, Westminster service (Howells); 5.45 Organ Recital: Martin Baker; 6.30 ES.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Mass; 10 MP; 10.30 Sol Mass, Coronation mass (Mozart); 12.15 Mass; 2.45 Organ recital; 3.30 Sol V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Bevan); 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Missa sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.30 E & Procession.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart); 11.45 M, Canon J Toy; 4 E, Rise heart (Vaughan Williams).

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Walton); 11.15 M, Stanford in C; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E, Bishop of St Albans.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Schubert in G; 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Clucas).

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, A: The Easter anthems (Middleton), The Archbishop of Wales; 3.30 Ch E, A: The strife is o'er (Ley).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch Euch, Schubert in G; 6 Ch E, Dyson in D.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 6 Vigil service of Easter; 8 HC; 10 Festal S Euch; 11.45 HC, Rev R Davey; 3.30 Ch E, This joyful Eastertide (Wood).

ST FIN BARRE'S CATHEDRAL, Cork: 8 Euch; 11.15 Ch Euch; 7 Ch E, Brewer in D.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8 LM; 10 Family Mass; 11.30 Sol Mass, Coronation mass (Mozart); 6 LM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC, Missa brevis (Walton); 11.30 MS; 6, 8 ES, Rev D K Robertson.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 6 Easter Vigil; 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne); 3.30 Ch E.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 HC, A: This is the day (Palestrina), Rev R Frazer; 6 ES.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, A: Christ the Lord is risen again (Rutter); 3.15 Ch E.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 11.30 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Langlais); 3.15 E, Stanford in B flat, Rev J Halliburton; 6 ES.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony. Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Coronation mass (Mozart); 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Stanford in C, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8, 9.30, 11.30 C, Rev Preb R Bewes; 6.30 EP, Rev Dr J Stott.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria).

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 HC; 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 Family Service, Rev S Millar; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev S Downham.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street: 8.45 Euch; 11 S Euch, Collegium regale (Darke).

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Mozart in F; 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Haec dies (Sheppard); 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH Inverna Gardens, W8: Zadig, Easter Day.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 11 C.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 7 Bach Vespers, Rev D Paton.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mozart in B flat; 6.30 E, Stanford in A.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Sumsion in G; 6.30 Ch E, Stanford in A, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch Euch, Collegium regale (Howells).

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11 HC, Very Rev J McIndoe; 6.30 Carols for Easter.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Credo mass (Mozart).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart).

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens: 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Ives), Rev B Wilson; 6 Ch E, Stanford in B flat.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 9.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 Family C, Toccata (Lanquetuit), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Haec dies (Byrd); 6.30 E, A: Cantate Domino (Dering), Rev J Streeting.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Coronation mass (Mozart), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 9.30 MP; 11 S Euch, Easter anthems (Elgar), Canon D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 5.30 Easter Vigil; 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev D Monteith; 11.30 Visitors Service; 12 HC; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 5.30 Festal Euch, Darke in E; 10.30 Festal Euch, Stanford in B flat.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mozart in F.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Mozart in D, Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Bruckner in E.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 S C, Darke in E, Rev P R C Abram; 3 E, Third service (Byrd).

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in A minor.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn); 3.30 E.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Schubert in C.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Collegium regale (Howells).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 Ch HC, Mozart in D, Band of the Blues and Royals, Ven J J Holliman.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Collegium regale (Howells), Rev R Nurton.

● *Compiled by Deborah King.*

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Save £4 on Times books for Easter

Edited and introduced by Ruth Gledhill

Today we offer readers two excellent books, both at £2 less than the normal retail price.

The Times Best Sermons for 1998 are the 30 sermons shortlisted for this year's competition. They are the thoughts of preachers from all denominations, encompassing a variety of styles of worship. Together they provide a source of enjoyment and spiritual enrichment for anyone trying to make sense of our complex world.

The Times Book of Prayers contains prayers that speak of the pain of insomnia, the difficulty of forgiveness, or the emptiness of forgetting how to pray. Others celebrate birth and new love. They include tributes to wives and husbands, church cats, and spontaneous thanksgivings for delicious fudge or a victory at football.

You can buy *The Times Best Sermons for 1998* and *The Times Book of Prayers* for the special price of £7.99 each, £2 less than the cover price. They are splendid books to buy for yourself or to give as gifts.



THE TIMES EASTER BOOKS ORDER FORM

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please send me ..... copies of *The Times Book of Prayers* and/or ..... copies of *The Times Best Sermons for 1998* at £7.99 each (incl p&p), a saving of £2 each. I enclose a cheque/PO(s) made payable to. *The Times* FT893

Value _____ Card No _____

Please write name and address on back of all cheques

Or debit my MasterCard/Visa card no.

Print Name _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send coupon and remittance to: *The Times* Easter books FT893, PO Box 345, Falmouth TR11 2YX

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. If dissatisfied, please return the book/s within seven days for a full refund. The offer is subject to availability.

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from *The Times* or companies approved by us. ☐

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 0990 134459 (24 HOURS)

CHANGING TIMES

CHECK-IN

Because we think the world of you ...

Unequivocal protection against airline insolvency - CAA approved

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

Includes all pre-paid taxes	one way from	return		one way from	return		one way from	return
MELBOURNE	£325	£505	NEW YORK	£122	£205	CARIBBEAN	£138	£277
PERTH	£356	£461	BOSTON	£161	£217	MEXICO CITY	£267	£388
BRISBANE	£338	£505	WASHINGTON	£172	£231	JO'BURG	£231	£335
AUCKLAND	£262	£619	CHICAGO	£175	£244	CAPE TOWN	£231	£381
BANGKOK	£224	£372	FLORIDA	£196	£261	HARARE	£348	£496
HONG KONG	£260	£357	LOS ANGELES	£158	£272	NAIROBI	£253	£279
SINGAPORE	£256	£379	SAN FRANCISCO	£211	£272	DUBAI	£182	£266
BALI	£259	£405	LAS VEGAS	£184	£272	CAIRO	£138	£222
TOKYO	£323	£469	TORONTO	£199	£274	ROME	£89	£98
INDIA	£209	£350	VANCOUVER	£251	£354	AROUND THE WORLD		£744

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £32 • USA £29 • AFRICA £39 • PACIFIC £46 • ASIA £17

USA CAR HIRE FROM £20 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

OPEN EASTER SUNDAY & MONDAY

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

AUSTRALIA FROM £461 RETURN

PLUS AUS $50 WORTH OF TRAVEL VOUCHERS TO SPEND IN AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND FROM £619 RETURN

ON AIR NEW ZEALAND

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • WORLDWIDE TAILORMADE

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop. Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 75% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 IATA ABTA 69701

42-50 Earls Court Road • LONDON W8 6FT
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3366
194 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 7RG
Long Haul Travel: 0171-938 3939
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BD
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
22-24 The Priory Queensway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
Worldwide Travel: 0121-236 1234
48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
Worldwide Travel: 0117-929 9000
254-284 Sauchiehall Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH
Worldwide Travel: 0141-353 2224
58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2FF
Worldwide Travel: 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat from 9-6pm • Thurs 9-7pm • Sun 10-6pm

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

... people think the world of us!

£1 To *Denver, *Dallas, *San Diego or *Seattle
*Round trip from New York
Conditions apply
USA 0171 757 2000

BOSTON	£184	AUSTRALIA	£455
LOS ANGELES	£265	N. ZEALAND	£599
S. FRANCISCO	£265	BANGKOK	£382
FLORIDA	£270	HONG KONG	£335
LAS VEGAS	£265	SINGAPORE	£374
CHICAGO	£237	JO'BURG	£330
TORONTO	£289	NAIROBI	£285

Open Easter Sunday & Monday

Hotels We can offer Hotels in beautiful San Diego 2 star to 5 star. £18

Car Hire Discounted prices, many special offers call for details. California £159

Trek America Small group adventure Holidays for all ages in North America. £382

FLIGHTBOOKERS

Look 'n' book www.flightbookers.net

Australia/New Zealand 0171 757 2468
Worldwide 0171 757 2444
Gatwick Branch 01293 568 300

Subject to availability C.C surcharges applicable and includes taxes

SAVE on TRAVEL INSURANCE

ANNUAL from £69 | LONG STAY from £10.50 per month | USA CAR HIRE TOP-UP Extends liability to $1M | SINGLE TRIP from £10

WORLDWIDE 01892 833 338

PLATINUM TRAVEL

ADVENTURE TRAVEL AND FLIGHTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

— CURRENT BEST BUYS —

Prices include all pre-paid taxes

	O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN		O/W	RTN
SYDNEY	£292	£568	SINGAPORE	£260	£380	HARARE	£299	£440
MELBOURNE	£359	£490	HONG KONG	£270	£349	JO'BURG	£240	£365
CAIRNS	£362	£587	JAKARTA	£265	£407	CAPE TOWN	£245	£365
PERTH	£360	£470	BALI	£280	£435	MEXICO CITY	£280	£385
AUCKLAND	£282	£605	SAIGON	£290	£410	RIO DE JANEIRO	£309	£385
INDIA	£252	£355	CAIRO	£179	£215	QUITO	£299	£499
MADRAS	£286	£410	BEIJING	£290	£301	TORONTO	£187	£259
KATHMANDU	£260	£435	DUBAI	£209	£299	NEW YORK	£139	£189
COLOMBO	£265	£397	TOKYO	£270	£460	LOS ANGELES	£199	£299
BANGKOK	£240	£365	NAIROBI	£259	£299	CASABLANCA		£220

SPECIAL OFFERS
South Africa £326 rtn
Hong Kong £369 rtn (with KLM) Available throughout the summer and from over 30 regional airports
Australia £460 rtn (with Malaysian Airlines)

- AROUND THE WORLD -
LONDON - HONG KONG - CAIRNS - BRISBANE overland to MELBOURNE - AUCKLAND - USA - LONDON £799

Whether you are holidaying or visiting home, would like to go direct or with a stopover, at Platinum Travel we offer more flights via more destinations, at all the right prices to suit your requirements.

LONG HAUL 0171 937 5122 TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPE 0171 937 2654

52 EARLS COURT ROAD, KENSINGTON, LONDON W8 6EJ
OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-6PM, SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

ben2

NEW YORK £189
BANGKOK £350

AMSTDAM	£75	JO'BURG	£299
CARIBBEAN	£229	L.ANGELES	£230
COLOMBO	£369	LAGOS	£360
DELHI	£339	MANILA	£389
DUBAI	£269	MOSCOW	£225
FRANKFURT	£69	ORLANDO	£199
GOA	£329	SYDNEY	£449

LOW SEASON FARES, INCLUSIVE OF TAX

0171 462 0011

SIMPLY Crete

Escape the mainstream and experience an island of stunning landscapes and warm hospitality. Country cottages, villas with pools, quality apartments and family-run hotels in unspoilt locations. Plus flexible 'Wandering' holidays.

0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

Fair fares to SWEDEN

from £109 RETURN

London Stansted to STOCKHOLM Stockholm Skavsta
NEW from 7 May
London Stansted to KRISTIANSTAD (For South Sweden & Malmö)

RYANAIR DIRECT 0541 569 569
or contact your Travel Agent

Sweden RYANAIR THE LOW FARES AIRLINE

AB AIRLINES
FIRST FOR VALUE
TAX-INCLUSIVE RETURN FLIGHTS
CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL AB AIRLINES FREE ON:
0800 45 88 111
www.abairlines.com

LISBON fr £136
BERLIN fr £146
SHANNON fr £85

AIRLINE NETWORK

The National Sales Centre for over 100 leading scheduled airlines, with 800,000 discount fares to 1,000 destinations.

SIX SPECIALIST DEPARTMENTS - CALL DIRECT
USA & WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS 017 72 72 72 72
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 01772 727 727
BUSINESS & FIRST CLASS 01772 727 747
ROUND THE WORLD 01772 727 222
HOTELS & TAILORMADE 01772 727 757
EUROPEAN FLIGHTS 01772 727 272

OPEN 9am - 9pm 7 days a week
SEE ITV Teletext P.275

BOSTON	£211	DUBAI	£297
DALLAS	£219	HONG KONG	£364
CHICAGO	£248	INDIA	£365
DETROIT	£249	VANCOUVER	£375
WASHINGTON	£260	BANGKOK	£377
DENVER	£264	MEXICO CITY	£384
PHOENIX	£275	SINGAPORE	£384
CALIFORNIA	£275	MANILA	£397
PHILADELPHIA	£275	RIO D. JANEIRO	£412
CHARLOTTE	£275	HARARE	£485
LAS VEGAS	£275	NEW ZEALAND	£602
SEATTLE	£275	PARIS	£88
TORONTO	£297	ZURICH	£139

This Week's Offers

NEW YORK	Depts from 14/4 - 30/4	fr	£211
FLORIDA	Depts from 02/5 - 31/5	fr	£279
JO'BURG	Depts from 19/5 - 20/6	fr	£328
AUSTRALIA	Depts from 19/4 - 30/6	fr	£488

ALL PRE PAYABLE AIRPORT TAXES INCLUDED - INSURANCE MANDATORY

SIMPLY Ionian

Paxos, Corfu, Lefkas, Meganisi, Ithaca, Cephalonia, Zakynthos

Quintessentially Greek holidays away from the mainstream. Private villas with pools, hotels and cottages in beautiful unspoilt locations by the sea and inland.

0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

Travel as many times as you like from £49.95 a year

With our annual travel insurance, you can take multiple trips throughout the year.
To enrol, call quoting reference TIA1I.
Lines are open 7 days.

American Express Insurance Services 0800 700 737

Available to non-Cardmembers

No need to compromise

TRAVEL INSURANCE
£10 OFF every policy sold
0500 787838
CLUB DIRECT

OPEN 7 DAYS 4/10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

QUEST WORLDWIDE

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

SYDNEY return from	£567
CAIRNS	£626
PERTH	£455
AUCKLAND	£603
BANGKOK	£379
HONG KONG	£341
DELHI	£351
SINGAPORE	£372
DUBAI	£295
NAIROBI	£295
JO'BURG	£376

MALAYSIA AIRLINES to PERTH fr £460rtn AUCKLAND fr £603rtn
Departs 16 April-15 Jun'98! Call us for many more offers!

FOR A FREE COPY OF ANY OF OUR BROCHURES CALL US NOW ON

USA & CANADA

ATLANTA return from	£267
BOSTON	£227
CHICAGO	£267
DALLAS	£267
HOUSTON	£267
LOS ANGELES	£323
MIAMI	£290
NEW YORK	£227
TORONTO	£293
SAN FRANCISCO	£323
WASHINGTON	£227
MEXICO CITY	£420

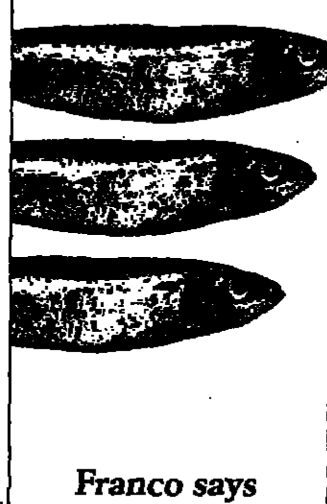
ALL OUR FLIGHT PRICES INCLUDE PRE PAID AIRPORT TAXES

0181 547 3322 ABTA A9256 ATOL 3255 IATA
BROCHURE HOTLINE 0181 546 4545
USA & CANADA 0181 546 6000

AIRLINK WORLDWIDE
Save £££'s book with us!

Spain rtn fr	£59	Cyprus	£99
Canaries	£69	New York	£119
Portugal	£69	Canada	£159
Greece	£69	Caribbean	£189
Orlando	£149	S. Africa	£249
Israel	£139	Goa	£309

CAR HIRE & INSURANCE & ACCOMMODATION
0171 713 7770



Luton Airport to/from Victoria with Greenline coach service £3 one way. London Luton is only 35 mins by train from central London.

Daily scheduled flights from London Luton. Return prices now include UK £10 and foreign departure tax.

Dusseldorf from £85 return
Rome* from £99 return
Munich from £110 return
Barcelona from £115 return
Nice from £118 return
Madrid from £125 return

Franco says "In twenty years of running airlines I never had a sardine buy a ticket from me."

"My airline seats have plenty of legroom. I believe in comfort. Sardines don't."

debonair We're opening up the skies.



Call now on 0541 500 300 or contact your travel agent.

Franco Mancassola Chairman, Debonair.

Bookings to be made by 31st May. Travel valid between 1st April and 15th June 1998. *To Rome only, travel valid between 11th April and 30th September. Valid on Debonair published special fares only. Minimum 2 night stay required. Taxes are correct at time of going to press. All prices are subject to availability. For our European Vacations brochure call 01293 596006.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Comprehensive Policies From £1 per day
No age limit, any destination
SUN SELECTION
Open Mon-Sat 9am - 9pm
Open Sunday 2pm - 9pm
01582 476026

If you thought the Aussie sense of humour was dry, check out the Henley-on-Todd Regatta.



As anyone in Alice Springs £529* will tell you, you don't need water in the Northern Territory to have a regatta. But if you'd prefer things a bit wetter, how about white water rafting in the rainforests of Queensland? You can now get Down Under for under £530 with Qantas. Call Travel 2 for more information.

0541 550066

QANTAS

Australia

ATOL 3228 ABTA V0156

*Example fare indicates cost of return travel to Perth and includes passenger taxes. All fares are valid on Qantas and British Airways services, on sale until 30th June 1998. Valid for travel 29th March-30th June 1998. Ring Travel 2 for information on other destinations or seasonal prices. All fares subject to availability.

Prague from £198 return inc. taxes
Amsterdam from £85 return inc. taxes
Dublin from £79 return inc. taxes
Glasgow from £69* return inc. taxes
Frankfurt from £149 return inc. taxes
Manchester from £69 return inc. taxes
Edinburgh from £69* return inc. taxes
Paris from £86 return inc. taxes

All we cut is the price.

Return fares from London Heathrow.

For these and many more special European fares, contact your travel agent or call us (local rate) on

0845 6071622

More fares available from other airports in the UK and Ireland.

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

Prices quoted available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Flight prices include UK and foreign levied taxes (exchange rates may vary). *14 days advance booking required at advertised price level. Calls are recorded. Internet http://www.iflybritishmidland.com

★ USA and CANADA

★Orlando	from £179	Toronto	from £207
★New York	from £211	Montreal	from £267
★Boston	from £212	Vancouver	from £311
★Dallas	from £212		
★Baltimore	from £223		
★Washington	from £223		
★Chicago	from £240		
★Philadelphia	from £268		
★Seattle	from £268		
★Los Angeles	from £268		
★San Francisco	from £268		
★Miami	from £273		

★★ SPECIAL OFFER ★★ TORONTO £207 Depart Manchester or Birmingham on 6th May 1998

eclipse

0990 329 326

Lines Open: Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm.
All fares are low season return flights, subject to availability and include all pre-payable taxes.
First Choice Holidays & Flights Ltd. ABTA V1549 ATOL 230 IATA

TRAVEL Insurance
We will not be beaten on price!
USA - 17 days £25.00 — 12 months Australia £150
World-wide family Multi-trip £79.00 — EUROPE 17 days £11.50
FREE AIRPORT PARKING WITH EVERY POLICY
Premier DIRECT
0990 133218 7 days

LOW FARES FOR HIGH SEASON FROM £449* RTN FLY WINTER '98/99

AUSTRAVEL'S AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND FLIGHTS NOVEMBER '98 TO MARCH '99

Regular departures from London and Manchester to: Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Auckland.

LONDON WEST END 0171 734 7755
KNIGHTSBRIDGE 0171 838 1011
CITY 0171 588 1516
BIRMINGHAM 0121 200 1116
BOURNEMOUTH 01202 311488
BRISTOL 0117 927 7425
LEEDS 0113 244 8880
MANCHESTER 0161 832 2445

SAVE £50 NOW
† WHEN YOU BOOK AND PAY IN FULL FOR YOUR BRITANNIA OR AIRTOURS FLIGHTS

Hurry peak season seats going fast!

AUSTRAVEL 50 Conduit Street, London W1
ABTA C1864, ATOL 4022

Offers subject to availability. *Includes £50 saving. †Offer closes 30 April.

Direct Travel Insurance
for TOP QUALITY COVER AND VALUE

WORLDWIDE ANNUAL MULTI-TRIP UNLIMITED SKI - UNLIMITED TRIPS
COMPREHENSIVE COVER £95 per FAMILY

Travellers' Insurance Association Limited — A Commercial Union Co.
General Insurer of the Year 1997

UK'S BEST SINGLE TRIP RATES from
EUR. £6.00
USA £14.25
SKI £10.50

01903 812345 For instant cover or quotation 9am - 8pm Seven days a week

TRAVEL INSURANCE
HIGHEST QUALITY LOWEST PRICES
"Award winning Annual Cover"
COLOSSUS DIRECT
FAMILY ANNUAL - with skiing - £87.50
Europe - 17 Days - £13.00
Call 0990 775 885 7 days a week

FLIGHTSEATS
Retail Agent for ATOL Holders ABTA C9707
ABTA Member for 19 years
Selected Flights Prices from

Alicante	£59	Turkey	£129
Malaga	£59	Malta	£89
Faro	£59	Greece	
Palma	£59	& Isles	£99
Mahon/Ibiza	£69	Geneva	£79
Tenerife	£79	Israel	£129
Lanzarote	£79	Orlando	£169
Funchal	£89	Canada	£229

0990 239904

FARESAVERS

MALAGA	fr £79	GREECE	fr £99
ALICANTE	£79	TURKEY	£129
FARO	£79	ISRAEL	£129
TENERIFE	£89	MALTA	£99
LAS PALMAS	£89	CYPRUS	£139
LANZAROTE	£89	ITALY	£99
BALEARICS	£79	CARIBBEAN	£229

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
BIG REDUCTIONS for SUMMER/WINTER '98

01476 592095

Global Air Travel Plc
YOUR ONE STOP HOLIDAY SHOP

SPAIN	fr £59	FLORIDA	fr £169
CANARIES	£69	CANADA	£159
GREECE	£59	MAURITIUS	£499
ITALY	£89	AUSTRALIA	£529
MALTA	£89	S.AFRICA	£279
NEW YORK	£99	CHICAGO	£199
CARIBBEAN	£199	GOA/TRV	£299

PACKAGES, CAR HIRE & INSURANCE
CALL NOW
0171 460 3000
IATA

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 26703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا في الأصل



The castle William Hearst built

California · 27

THE TIMES TRAVEL

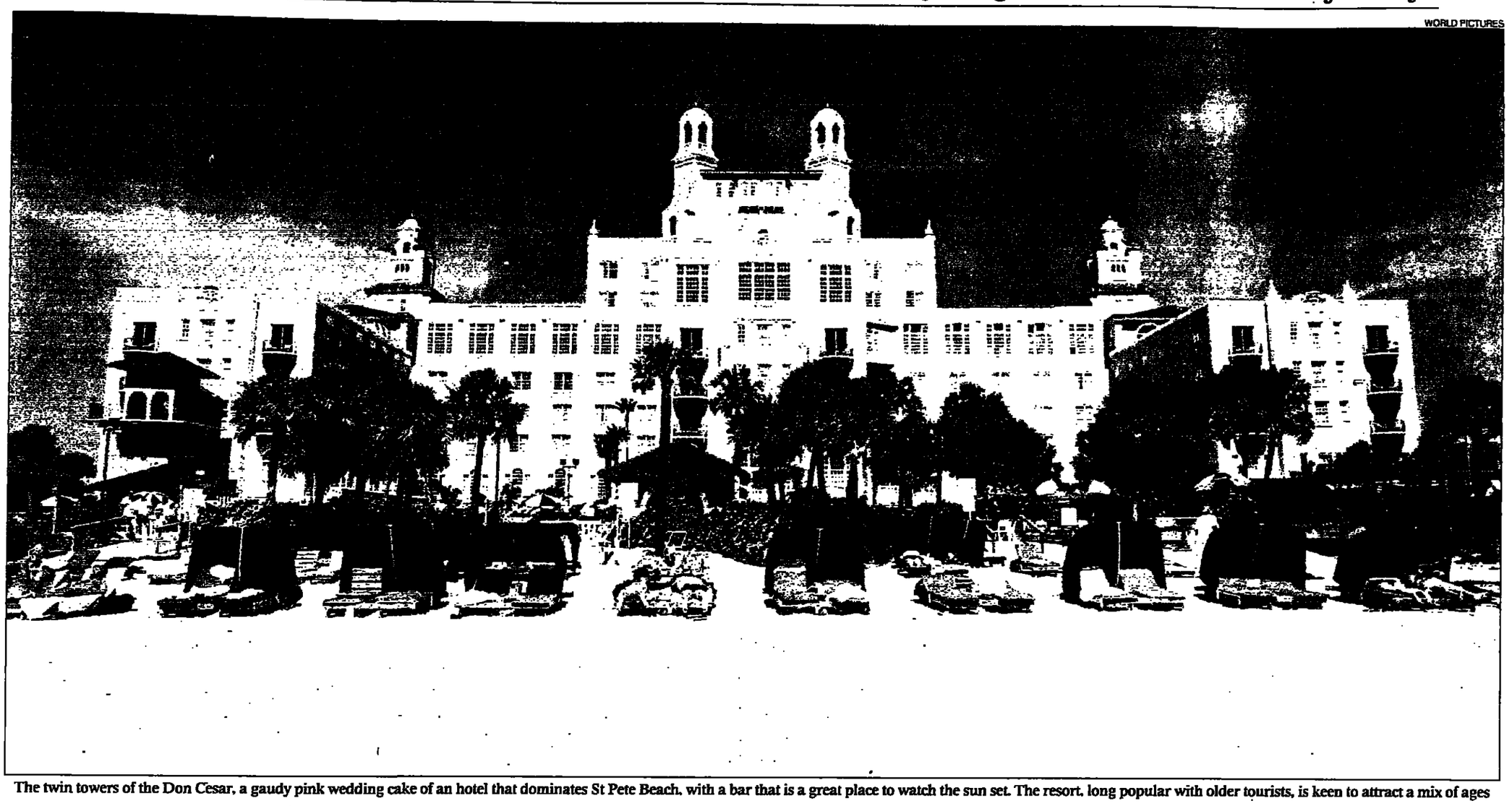
Behind the scenes in a big hotel



Cotswolds · 29

Titanic-mania is helping Florida's St Petersburg to attract a younger crowd, **Tom Chesshyre** says

WORLD PICTURES



The twin towers of the Don Cesar, a gaudy pink wedding cake of an hotel that dominates St Pete Beach, with a bar that is a great place to watch the sun set. The resort, long popular with older tourists, is keen to attract a mix of ages

Relax in a state of sunshine

Queueing to visit the current *Titanic* exhibition in St Petersburg, Florida, a jovial American in an orange baseball cap turns to me. "Hey man, did you hear the one about two Irishmen who were stranded on an iceberg?" he asks with a broad grin. Before I have a chance to reply, he continues: "One says to the other: 'We're all right Paddy, we're saved. Here comes the *Titanic*!' Ha, ha!"

Titanic-mania has struck. The phenomenal success of James Cameron's epic production — which won a record-equalling 11 Oscars last month — has unleashed an almost insatiable interest in what happened on that fateful day, April 15, 1912.

And St Petersburg — which was named after Russia's St Petersburg by a homesick imigrant in 1888 — is cashing in. The *Titanic* exhibition, which runs until May 15 at the downtown Florida International Museum, is attracting more than 5,000 visitors a day. It claims to contain the largest collection of artefacts (300 objects altogether) recovered from the *Titanic*, including gold rings, pocket watches, chandeliers, toothbrushes, cufflinks and portholes.

A 90-minute audio tour takes you through the vessel's final moments and examines some of the more controversial aspects of the rescue: why were there not enough lifeboats and why did so few third-class passengers survive, for example. "It wasn't fair that all the poor people died," opined Chris Dunlop, 11, from Clapham, south London, as we passed the lists of passengers who were killed.

St Petersburg — part of the Pinellas peninsula, a blob of land with a 60-mile circumference on the west coast of the Sunshine State — is not known to be a follower of latest fads. In the past, it has been principally regarded as one of America's favourite retirement cities — a bit stuck-in-the-mud, a kind of American equivalent of Eastbourne or Worthing.



Feeding pelicans on the white sands of St Pete

The attractions for the retired are obvious: comfortable condos set among palms and magnolias, year-round sunshine (it holds the world record for the longest run of consecutive sunny days — 768) and clean beaches. However, Costa Geriatric — as it has been unkindly dubbed — is undergoing a deliberate image change. Hopes are that attractions such as the *Titanic* exhibition will draw in tourist cash to rejuvenate the region.

Progress has already been made. Over the past few years, scores of hotels have sprung up and the area has become a popular stop-off for fly-drive visitors to Florida. Several British tour operators now offer packages — 442,000 British tourists visited last year, many of whom decided to try St Petersburg rather than risk higher crime rates in east coast resorts such as Miami.

When we visited this winter, it was clear to see why the tourists like it. St Pete Beach (as it is affectionately known locally) is made of fine white sand and stretches several miles. The view out to sea across the Gulf of Mexico is spectacular: a wide horizon of calm, glistening, metallic-blue water.

Young lovers kissing in the shallow water, kids making sandcastles, teenagers chucking Frisbees ("Yo! Nice throw, man!") and middle-aged couples collecting shells share the sand. The only signs of the large retirement community were elderly speed walkers wiggling along the water's edge in white T-shirts.

There were plenty of British tourists. "It's a fantastic place to relax," said Janette Harvey-Adams, 46, from Stroud, who was looking extremely laid back wearing Ray-Bans and holding a Danielle Steel novel. "We spent the first week of our holiday visiting the theme parks in Orlando and this makes a great contrast."

Nearby, at Banana Mama's Beach Bar, I bumped into John and Peter Hill, brothers from Peterborough, aged 22 and 24. Munching on onion rings and a burger, John said, a little ruefully: "I've got to admit it's a bit quiet around here — there's not a huge amount of nightlife. It's mainly families with kids and older travellers, so it doesn't really suit people in their 20s."

But neither really seemed to mind. "I like the peacefulness," said Peter. "I don't want all the hassle of somewhere like Miami. On a typical day here, we just laze about on the beach, maybe go for a swim and then go to one of the great seafood restaurants nearby."

Most of the beachfront of the Pinellas peninsula has already been well-developed: hotels, motels and condos abound. There are a few monstrosities: St Pete Beach has a huge, gaudy-pink wedding cake of a hotel called the Don Cesar. But it makes up for its appearance with its excellent Beachcomber Bar, which plays gentle reggae music and serves Buffalo-style chicken wings, tiger prawns and daiquiries and pina coladas — making it a perfect place to watch pelicans soar by as the sun sets after a beach walk.

Concrete towers are the most striking feature of the most over-developed part of the peninsula. Clearwater Beach (ten miles north of St Pete on the Gulf coast) — which has pirate boat rides, crazy-golf courses and video arcades. Meanwhile, Caladesi Island, a couple of miles north of Clearwater and reached by a cheap ferry, is untouched with beautiful sands and a rich interior packed with mangroves.

Downtown St Petersburg, which overlooks Tampa Bay on the east coast of the peninsula, has a lot to offer in its own right. As well as the *Titanic* exhibition, there's a huge Salvador Dali museum packed with hundreds of original works — well worth a visit. The museum was opened in 1982 to house a private collection owned by a Cleveland industrialist who had written to *The Wall Street Journal* in desperation, after being unable to find a local museum to care for his beloved paintings. St Petersburg was the first to respond to this plea.

The highlight of downtown St Petersburg is its pier. At the pier's end there's a building in the shape of an inverted pyramid packed with ice-cream parlours, pizzerias, sandwich shops and burger joints — a fast food heaven. Tucking into a huge slice of pizza, Victor Farminer, 70, from Portsmouth, was loving it. "What a great way to escape the English winter," he said.

The Baithouse hires out fishing rods ($10 a day) for casting off the pier. All sorts of colourful local characters were chancing their arm when we visited — many, according to Joe, who runs the hire stall, rely on catching fish (mainly grouper and flounder) to feed their families.

It rained heavily on the final day of our visit, an extremely rare event: the locals looked shell-shocked. After swimming in the heated, outdoor hotel pool we did what everybody else was doing and went to a mall.

On the 30-minute drive out of town we passed typically wacky American roadside billboards that hinted at the elderly local population — "Fountain of Youth Plastic Surgery", "Rad's Mobile X-Rays" and "Chest Pain Centre: Because Your Heart Attack Won't Wait" — before reaching the Ellenton Outlet, which had shops selling all sorts of designer labels, which were as much as a third cheaper than in Britain.

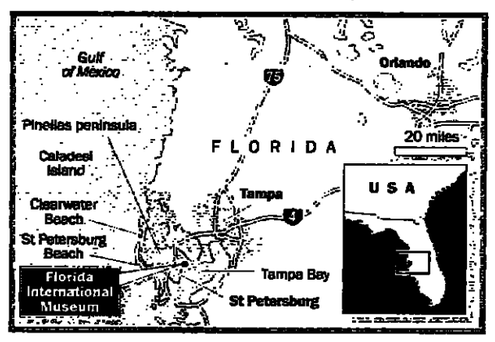
"It's wonderful — we thought it would be boring when it rained, but this is great," said Janet Eddleston, from Clayton-le-Moors in Lancashire. She was on a two-week holiday with her three children Amy (eight), Michaela (ten) and Leanne (12). "I can go swimming tomorrow, today I'm going shopping," said Leanne firmly.

Colin and Eunice Turner from Blackburn, 67 and 65, were also having fun. "We've had a fantastic holiday," said Colin, clasping a shopping bag. "It's no wonder so many Americans retire here. Despite all the new developments, I wouldn't mind settling down here."



Titanic exhibition is going down a storm, until May 15

ST PETERSBURG FACT FILE



■ Tom Chesshyre travelled with St Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (001 813 464 7200).

■ Packages: Thomson (0990 502567) has two weeks' room-only at a three-star hotel in April at St Pete Beach, from £575 per person, for four sharing. Flights from Gatwick.

BA Holidays (01293 723111) has a week's room-only in April at a four-star hotel on St Pete Beach from £749 per adult, for two sharing. Flights from Gatwick and some regional airports.

Funway Holidays (0181-466 0222) has a week's room-only at a three-star hotel on St Pete Beach for a family of four (with two children under 11) in May from £1,735. Flights from Gatwick. All include basic car hire.

■ Flights: BA (0345 222111) has return flights to Tampa International Airport, from £482 until June 14; must be booked 21 days in advance, minimum stay one week.

■ Car Hire: Premier Car Hire (01279 641040) has a week's all-inclusive hire in May from £170. Holiday Autos (0990 300400) has a week's all-inclusive in May from £194.

Prices based on a 'compact' four-door car, suitable for a family of four, with free additional driver and tank of petrol, picked up from Tampa International.

■ Hotels: Sheraton Sand Key Resort (001 813 595 1611) on Clearwater Beach has double rooms from £112.50 a night until April 25. Best Western Sirata Beach Resort (813 367 2771) on St Pete Beach has double rooms from £85 a night in May. Saddlebrook Resort (813 973 1111) in Tampa has double rooms from £151 a night in April. All prices room-only.

■ Best time to go: It's warm or hot all year round, but July and August tend to be humid and prone to thunderstorms and mosquitos.

■ Worth Visiting: Salvador Dali Museum (813 823 3767): 1000 Third Street South, St Petersburg. Admission: adults £5; over 65's £4.30; children under ten free.

Titanic: The Exhibition (813 822 3693): 100 Second Street, St Petersburg. Admission: adults £8.70; students/school children £3.70; children under six free.

Busch Gardens (813 987 5212) in Tampa (theme park). Admission: adults £25.30; children aged three to nine, £21.80; children under three, free.

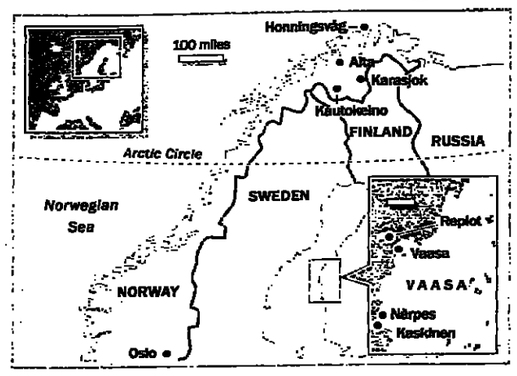
■ Books: *The Rough Guide to Florida* by Mick Sinclair (Rough Guide, £10.99); *For Love & Money* by Jonathan Raban (Picador, £6.99); any Travis McGee novel by John D. MacDonald, (published by Robert Hale).

■ Further information: The Florida Tourist Board information line: 0891 600555 (calls charged at 50p a minute).

Glasgow
from £69* return inc. taxes
Prague
from £198 return inc. taxes
Dublin
from £79 return inc. taxes
All we cut is the price.
For these and many more special European fares, contact your travel agent or call us (local rate) on
0845 6071624
Return fares from London Heathrow.
BM British Midland
The Airline for Europe
Prices quoted available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Saturday night stay. Flight prices include UK and foreign levied taxes (exchange rates may vary). *14 days advance booking required at advertised price level. Calls are recorded. More fares available from other airports in the UK and Ireland. Internet: http://www.iflybritishmidland.com

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVALS: NORWAY

Iceman cometh to the frozen tundra of Norway



Philip Delves Broughton catches a lift from husky dogs and Rudolf's cousin to get across the snow to the reindeer races



JOHN BRUNTON

A cold Philip Delves Broughton relaxes on a sled while his four-legged companion works his way across the silent and memorably strange Norwegian tundra

Northern Norway, or Finnmark, has lots of snow, but no skiing. There is plenty to drink, but it costs three times what it would in London. The locals are brightly costumed and friendly, but their idea of a sophisticated night out is reindeer racing and suicidal drinking rounded off by a yodelling competition out on the tundra. If you are looking for a winter holiday in spring, it is hard to make the case for Karasjok over Klosters. Après-reindeer's charms, however earthy, are no direct match for the thigh-slapping and schnapps-swigging of an Alpine Easter.

But snow has another side. It is not all chalet girls and whoopee. Though without the drama of mountains, tundra is satisfyingly bleak. In the miles of whiteness north of the Arctic circle, where the only things breaking the monotony are the tree tops poking up through the snow as though they were the antlers of buried reindeers, there is romance.

It can either be a Tolstoyan sort of romance — rich folk wrapped up in furs being sledded along to their expectant winter houses where fires blaze and hogs sizzle — or, for the more melancholy, a secretive romance, where noble folk brood, toil and procreate under thick rugs disturbed only by the sound of icicles crashing from the eaves.

Flying up from Oslo, you see the fiords, so massive the Germans could hide their fleet there during both world wars. Alta, the starting point for our tundra jaunt, however, is a sort of Arctic Corby: industrial, cold and best left in a hurry.

A three-hour drive through the frozen wastes, and we arrived in Karasjok, capital of the Sami people, northern Norway's indigenous reindeer herders. The North Cape Hotel was typical of every hotel we were to see. Clean, comfortable and efficiently heated, it also had an extremely well-appointed sauna, with bracing showers and a room beside the sauna kitted out with sofas and candles for recovering after a good sweat.

Sauna etiquette is a tricky subject, of which one of my companions on the trip foolishly claimed to be the master. As I approached the sauna with my towel wrapped firmly round my waist, he stood there naked and told me to remove it. "I'd prefer to keep it on," I said. "You'll look really stupid in there," he insisted. "They might even make you take it off. Norwegians sauna naked and you'll make them feel self-conscious. It's only polite." I held my ground and we entered the sauna to be met by two Norwegian couples and their four children all sitting there in towels, smirking at my naked friend who covered himself up and scuttled out.

Evenings in Karasjok mean yoiking in the *gamme*, a low wooden building filled with smoky fires and benches, the traditional focus of any Sami village. A yoik is a wordless song, a sort of yodel with more notes. It can last as long as you like and is supposed to describe a mood, person, thing or event, or even a favourite reindeer. Courting Samis compose them to each other and wail them across the wastes. The great yoiker is as feted among the Sami as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is among the Maoris.

Mari Boine, the greatest yoiker of the moment, performs jazz-yoik, a fusion genre which is better than it might sound. A pretty, dark-haired woman with heavy mascara, she flirts devastatingly with the Sami men who are, on the whole, trollish and howling from alcohol.

The next morning featured the highlight of the holiday: dog-sledding. We travelled out along a frozen river into the woods to find a collection of small log cabins and 50 or 60 yapping huskies. There we were greeted by Teria, a tall, blond, husky sledder, dressed from head to toe in workman's leather and with knives dangling from his belt.



Traditional Sami costume at the Kautokeino race course

Kitted out in thermal romper suits, we took to our sleds, standing precariously on thin runners and holding on to a sort of wooden Zimmer frame. In front of us were 12 dogs harnessed in pairs, who left an acrid yellow trail behind them in the snow. According to Teria, this had saved many a sledder's life. If they fell off and lost their dogs, they could find their way home by sniffing the snow.

Off we went bumping down hillsides, down along the river, where the locals whizzed around on their skidoos. After about an hour, as our legs began to stiffen from balancing so long on the runners, we pulled over. Teria dug a hole in the snow and lit a fire. He then produced a kettle, which he filled with snow and boiled. Coffee soon followed and a tinful of chocolate biscuits. It is possible to go on week-long dog-sledding trips, staying in cabins dotted around the woods. On the evidence of one morning, it would make a terrific holiday.

Kautokeino is the home of the World Reindeer Racing Championship, held every Easter. "World" in this case has about as much meaning as in American baseball's "World Series" championship.

Reindeer racing does not, as I imagined, involve actually saddling up a reindeer, gripping the antlers and letting rip with a "giddy-up, Rudolph". Instead, you lie face down on a sled which the reindeer then pulls around an oval track. The animals move surprisingly fast, and at the end, the rider must jump off the sled going at full speed.



Reindeer skin shoes for sale at the Easter reindeer races

The then Norwegian Prime Minister, Thorbjoern Jagland, was there, with his family, mingling un-bodyguarded among the crowd before going off for an afternoon of langlaufing. The ubiquitous hot reindeer stew was served from vans in the skidoo park beside the race track.

Easter morning saw the bleary-eyed Samis turning out for church in full costume: bright blue, red and gold jackets, skirts and trousers. Afterwards, they celebrated with reindeer marrow lunches, with cocktail swizzlers provided to poke the marrow out of the bones.

After the claustrophobia of the tundra, it was a relief to head for the sea and Horningsvåg, an island off the coast whose northern cape is the northernmost point in Europe. An hour on the back of a skidoo takes you to the North Cape Club, a cavernous complex incorporating restaurants, shops and viewing stations looking out across the sea towards the Arctic.

Standing on the supposed most northern point of Europe, however, it is impossible not to miss a spit of land which pokes out a few hundred yards further into the sea.



B&C ALEXANDER

Samis in Kautokeino, northern Norway



A child of the indigenous reindeer herders, the Sami

"We do not count that in calculating the most northern point," said our irritated guide without further explanation.

It took several flights in hopper planes to take us back to Oslo, which had seemed slow on our arrival but now looked like New York compared to where we had been.

This had been a very peculiar holiday. The Sami nationalists hope that if they can whip up enough of a tourist industry, they stand a better chance of seceding from the rest of Norway. Unlike the rest of their country, the Samis are mostly in favour of joining the European Union, as membership would cushion their secession with all kinds of subsidies.

Even without the Samis flaunting their ethnicity for political motives, however, their country is physically stunning enough to be worth visiting. It is not twee, Heidi-country, or dramatic and Grieg-worthy, but rather cold, envelopingly silent and memorably strange.

NORWAY FACT FILE

- Philip Delves Broughton travelled with the Norwegian Tourist Board and SAS Scandinavian Airlines (0345 010789).
- Getting there: No tour operator offers ready-made packages to the region, although Inntravel (01653 628811) and Scandinavian Travel Service (0171-559 6666) both offer tailored packages allied to the Easter Festival.

STS also features a ten-day tour of Norway this summer which includes two nights in Tromsø, starting at £938.

- Going alone: SAS is quoting return fares to Alta, via Oslo, starting at £313 until May 30. Flights from Oslo to Alta get very busy during public holidays as exiles return home.
- Accommodation: The Rica Cape North Hotel in Karasjok (00 47 7846 7400) costs Kl.095 (£88) for a double room including breakfast: at Easter, the half-board price jumps to £105.

The Norlandia Hotel in Kautokeino (7848 6205) costs Kl.145 (£92): Kl.510 (£122) at Easter.

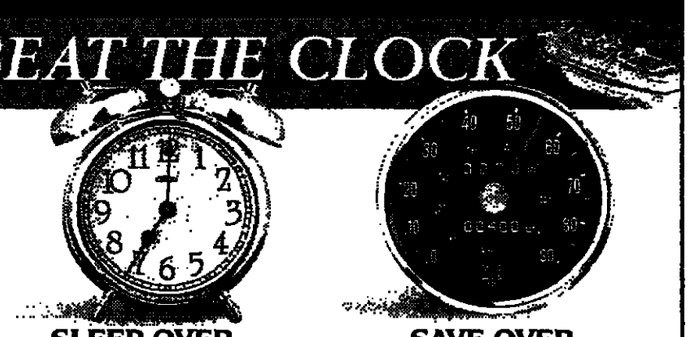
- Extras: Three hours' dog-sledding in Karasjok, K636 (£51). (7846 7166).

Snow-scooter to North Cape, K845 (£69) per person (minimum two people) (7847 2488).

Reindeer safari in Kautokeino, K500 (£41) (7848 5600).

- What to take: Temperatures in spring hover around freezing. Snowboots and waterproofs are useful for dog sledding and reindeer trips. Thermal underwear is also a good idea.
- Further information: Norwegian Tourist Board (0171-839 6255).

CORK & KERRY
BEAT THE CLOCK



SLEEP OVER ARRIVING AT 7am
SAVE OVER 400 MILES OF DRIVING

CAR + 5 ADULTS FROM £75 SINGLE JOURNEY £139 MID WEEK RETURN

SWANSEA CORK FERRIES For cabin space book early!

SELF CATERING WEEK FROM £39 PER PERSON Based on 6 people sharing £236 PACKAGE PRICE

For ferry passage, holiday brochure and reservations, contact

SWANSEA CORK FERRIES

FREEPHONE 0800 783 8006 or contact your local travel agent

No premium rates for the over 55's

Annual travel insurance from £40

Some travel insurers will charge you extra, just because you're over 55. We don't. To us, there's only one kind of customer – ours. Preferential.

01702 423393

Open: 8am-8pm Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Sat & Sun

more than a Preferential

Florida

SPECIAL OFFERS 2 weeks from £169

ACCOMMODATION	DATES	PRICE
2 ** Inns of America, Kissimmee (Room only)	April	from £267
	May	from £297
	Children	from £199
ORLANDO Luxury Homes with pool (Self catering)	May	from £339
	Children	from £199
Flights & Car Rental included	April	from £169
	May/June	from £199

Flights from Gatwick, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham or Glasgow & 14 day car rental. See your Travel Agent or call us on:

01342-312033

Comprehensive car insurance must be taken with special flydrive offers. Hotel prices based on 4 adults sharing a room, and Luxury homes based on 6 adults sharing. Sharing and flight supplements may apply. All bookings subject to availability and our booking conditions. Prices are correct at time of going to press. Credit card charge £2 per person

Jetsave

ABTA V1004 ATOL 1814

FLORENTINE

هكذا من الأصل

نقلاً عن الأصل

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVALS: FINLAND

BRIAN HUNT



Children in the town band of Vaasa add to the atmosphere of the Korsholm Festival

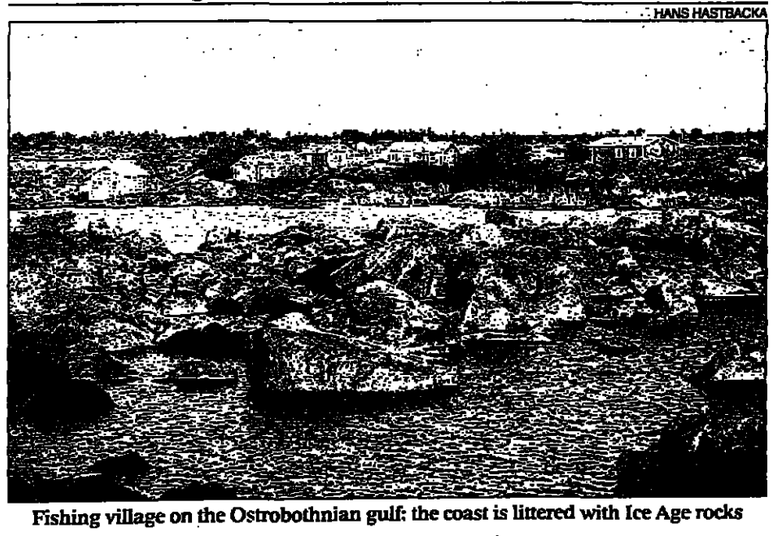


A concert in the church at Korsholm: its annual festival began in the 1980s under strong Russian influence, but has an international cast now

My musical magic on a midsummer night

The wooden churches of Ostrobothnia, in Finland, provide the perfect surroundings to listen to some outstanding chamber orchestras, says Brian Hunt

HANS HASTBACKA



Fishing village on the Ostrobothnian gulf: the coast is littered with Ice Age rocks

Wood is good for music. As Frans Helmerson's bow gives life to a Bach cello suite, the whole of the upper room at the Stundars open-air museum seems to vibrate softly in sympathy. Of timber construction, as is usual in Ostrobothnia, the Stundarf building resonates and enriches the arching melody as if it were itself a huge cello.

Helmerson has been director of the Korsholm Festival since 1994. It makes sense to have a Swede in charge, even though Korsholm is a district of Ostrobothnia in Finland. The area is called (confusingly) the Swedish Coast, and the joint presence of Swedish and Finnish speakers adds to local colour. Each town tailors its road and shop signs to the prevalent language of its community.

Visitors invariably ask whether this causes tension, and the answer is yes, but very little. It is a moot point who was here first (there are conflicting theories as to what constitutes a true Finn). When the lingua franca is music, as it is for a week each June, there is little point in looking for controversy. It makes much more sense to concentrate on great music that is being beautifully played in fascinating surroundings.

Surprisingly, not everyone approves of the Ostrobothnian landscape. Some guidebooks dismiss it as a wasteland and you wonder whether the authors have actually seen it for themselves. Certainly it is flat and dominated by huge, slabby skies but the sense of monotony is averted by mirror-smooth rivers, punctuating birch and fir woodland, amusingly angular hay barns and granite boulders casually strewn as the Ice Age glaciers departed northwards.

In Britain each sizeable lump of glacial debris would have its own name and a brown sign pointing to it: Dragon Rock, the Witch Stone and suchlike. In this part of Finland, rocks are plentiful enough to be just rocks. Wood is even more abundantly available and has been for centuries. It is the standard material for all rural structures, from barns to town halls. To the unpractised eye it is hard to tell which buildings are old, which are new, since a spot of remedial carpentry and a lick of traditional rust-red paint renders everything spick and span. Nevertheless, each village seems to have its own open-air museum, a site where old shops and windmills come, plank by plank, to be reassembled in retirement.

The country churches are wooden, and it is in them that most of the Korsholm Festival concerts take place. Chamber music is the focus; Helmerson's repertory company of string players, wind soloists and pianists mix and match in various combinations to set the timbers ringing.

Musicianship is of a high order, and the programmes combine a large proportion of the familiar and widely loved (Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn last year) with a dash of the worth-getting-to-know. A highlight of the last festival was a performance of Schoenberg's string sextet *Verklärte Nacht* (*Transfigured Night*).

In June, every Ostrobothnian night is transfigured. The sun sets, painting the calm sea of the archipelago in pastel tints, but darkness never falls. Ghostly mists blanket the fields and skirt clumps of woodland, while the sky remains light for the few hours before sunrise. Every Finn wants to make the most of these white nights, having experienced the narrow days and half-light of midwinter, and the Korsholm Festival takes advantage of that enthusiasm. Of the three concerts each day, the last (and often the best) begins at 10pm. One or two concerts on a larger scale take place in the splendid hall in Vaasa, the area's largest town.

Vaasa (Vasa to its 27 per cent *Swedish-speaking population*) grew up around the medieval castle of Korsholm. The modern town was constructed after Old Vaasa was destroyed by fire. The pipe-smoker who fell asleep in a hay-barn in 1852 did the area something of a favour, as the harbour buildings were by then embarrassingly far from the sea. Finland rises out of the water at the rate of about 1cm per year.

Built untypically but understandably of brick and stone, the new Vaasa is rich in museums, markets and art galleries and has the cultural attraction of a university town. You could spend days sampling what it has to offer, but not at the expense of exploring the rest of the Swedish Coast. For example, there is Närpes, a farming district to the south. Distinguished by a dialect that perplexes even its near-neighbours, the village boasts the only "church stables" preserved in Finland. These 19th-century sheds are littered around the 15th-century church and used to shelter the horses and sledges of worshippers.

> Soloists and pianists set the timbers ringing

Further south you come to Kaskinen (Kaskö in Swedish), a pretty island town smaller than the wood pulp factory which provides work for the *population of less than 2,000*. Lis-Marie Enroth-Niemi, the town's officer of education and culture, invited me into Bladh's House, a pleasant, imaginatively restored 1788 mansion. As we sat chatting I noticed how her head turned to watch each infrequent passing car. It summed up the self-contained nature of the quiet community.

Venturing out into the archipelago is essential, whether you take an extensive cruise or merely the ferry across to Replot, the largest island. Here you will find an extraordinary leaning church: the north wind blew, the timbers bent, and the only economical solution was to stabilise the structure before its wonkiness advanced even further. Stand among the confused and contradictory angles of its interior and you will understand why some parishioners feel distinctly queasy over their Sunday lunch.

If your own internal equilibrium survives, don't leave Replot without feasting on locally caught fish (and visiting the picturesque fishing museum). On the other hand, be sure to be back on the mainland for at least one of the evening's concerts.

When the Korsholm Festival started in the early 1980s, Finland was still dominated by communist Russia. Many Russian superstars — Yuri Bashmet, Evgeny Kissin, Alfred Schnittke — appeared during the popular directorship of Dimitry Sitkovetsky, the violinist, with the quota of Western artists increasing as the Soviet bear began to loosen its grip. Now, with Helmerson in charge, the cast is international but with an emphasis on young Nordic artists. The week before Korsholm, the same musicians give a festival across the Baltic in Umea, Sweden.

Finland's political past, often painful, sometimes inglorious, is a diminishing presence. For the moment, the highly developed welfare state is keeping heads above water during a difficult time of transition. The Finns I met in and around Vaasa were a great deal more genial and optimistic than some commentators warn you to expect. It was, after all, midsummer and a time for enjoying life: almost 24 hours of sunlight, the mellow best of the year's weather, the pleasures of an unusual landscape and its rural traditions. How lucky I was to have spent a day in such an atmosphere, and to end it in the twilight listening to Bach, Beethoven and Schubert played magnificently in a wooden church.

"Poor man" wooden sculpture outside a village church

FINLAND FACT FILE

- Brian Hunt travelled with Finnair and the Finnish Tourist Board.
- The 1998 Korsholm Festival runs from June 21 to 27 and features Mozart and Spanish music. Tickets cost between £6.70 and £16.70 for each concert.
- Getting there: Norvista (0171-409 7334), the Finnair-owned tour operator, has two night's B&B at a three-star hotel in Vaasa during the festival for £337, based on two sharing and including return flights. Seven-day fly-drive packages start at £555 per person (minimum two people), including flights and group A car hire. Norvista can book festival tickets. *British Airways* (0345 222111) has flights to Vaasa from £528 in June.
- Where to stay: Brian Hunt stayed at the Hotel Royal Vaasa (00 358 6 327 8111), which has single rooms for £70 and doubles for £84, breakfast included. The Ostrobothnian tourist office in Vaasa (00 358 6 325 1125) has hotel information.
- Tips: Mosquito repellent is essential for evenings. It is very light at night, so take an eye mask in case hotel curtains are too thin.
- Reading: *Finland: a Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £11.99).
- Information: Finnish Tourist Board (0171-839 4048).

ICELAND & GREENLAND
Glaciers - Geysers - Whales - Volcanoes
All this and much more from as little as £250 with the UK's leading specialist. Call for your FREE 52-page brochure
01737 218801
www.arctic-discover.co.uk
ARCTIC EXPERIENCE
ABTA W4496 ATCO ATOL 2974

The one and only QE2 to America. Superb savings on spectacular city holidays.
A choice of three exciting QE2 fly/cruise America holidays – all with big savings. Combine 6 nights on the incomparable QE2 with 3 nights in New York. From £1132*. Or 6 nights QE2 and 3 nights in Washington. From £1022*. Or 8 nights QE2 and 5 nights in Fort Lauderdale. From £1642*. Flights, hotels and transfers included. Departures April, May, June.
See your travel agent or call Cunard on:
0870 6076070
For a brochure quoting TIM/Q43 or
01703 634166
For reservations.
www.cunardline.com
QUEEN ELIZABETH 2
CUNARD
CUNARD MOUNTBATTEN HOUSE GROSVENOR SQUARE SOUTHAMPTON SO15 2BE. *FARES ARE INCLUSIVE OF TAXES, PORT AND HANDLING CHARGES AS KNOWN ON 1 FEBRUARY 1998. OFFER SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. FARES ARE BASED ON 2 ADULTS SHARING AN M5 GRADE CABIN. ATOL 264

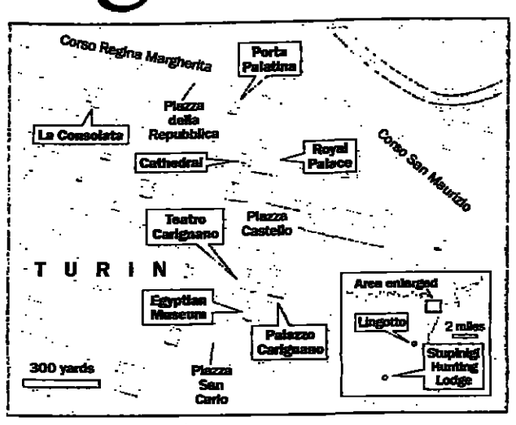
The Shroud is just one reason to visit Turin, **Sean Hignett** says. It's also a great place to shop and eat out

Capital city for arcade games

KATZ PICTURES



You don't need an umbrella in Turin — the Galleria San Federico is part of an extensive complex of turn-of-the-century, elegantly arcaded city-centre streets



You get the picture the minute you board the Alitalia flight at Gatwick: business class stretches almost the length of the plane. Business is the image Turin has had since flying began. Fiat built its first car here in 1899. In 1923, a year after Mussolini came to power, it built its brutalist Lingotto factory, where the Topolinos, the Mickey Mouse cars, moved up the production line, from floor to floor, till they reached the test track on the roof, the very image of Chaplin's *Modern Times*.

There is, though, another image for which Turin is famous, one that in many ways helped to establish the pre-industrial prestige of a city which, in its 19th-century heart, remains one of the most stylish in Europe.

The image is that on the Turin Shroud, or *Sindone* as it is called in Italian — the piece of linen that many believe wrapped the body of the crucified Christ, and through some mysterious alchemy came to bear the imprint of His body. Guarino Guarini, the architect of some of the finest Baroque buildings in the city, built a chapel linking the cathedral to the Royal Palace to house it when the Savoy dynasty bought it from France in 1578, and from 1694 there the Shroud rested, in a casket high above the altar from which it was very occasionally brought out for display. Since being photographed in 1898, when the famous image was discovered, the Shroud has been displayed publicly only three times, in 1931, 1935 and in 1978. This month, to commemorate the centenary of that first photographic revelation, and the fifth century of the Cathedral, it will be on display again.

Maurizio Momo, the architect arranging the centenary display in the nave of Turin Cathedral, stretches out an arm to indicate where the Shroud will be hung, while blocks of 150 visitors, in ranks of three, file past every three minutes — 13 hours equals 50,000 visitors a day, seven days a week. Nearly a million have already registered for the time-stamped free tickets. "We had a trial run last year with a fake Shroud and we think it will work."

The Cathedral, like many of Turin's churches and monuments, is being refurbished in preparation for the *Esposizione* when, unusually, everything will be open. In the case of the cathedral, though, this is a huge task because exactly a year ago the Holy Shroud survived yet another disaster. On April 11, 1997, Guarini's chapel, in which it had been kept for 300 years, burnt down. By chance — or Divine providence — the chapel was already being restored and the Shroud had been stored behind the High Altar. A fireman braved the flames and falling timbers and smashed the bullet-proof glass of the reliquary to rescue the Shroud. "Only a miracle can explain how I succeeded," he said.

"The chapel was destroyed," Maurizio Momo confirms. "The dome is all that could be salvaged and that's now supported entirely by scaffolding." "But what . . ." I ask him. The sentence fades as I gesture towards the ornate altar at the end of the nave on top of which the sacred reliquary appears to be sitting.

"A huge canvas," he says. "The whole end wall is a painting we had made. A *trompe l'oeil*. Didn't you realise? It's a very good one, isn't it?"

Trompe l'oeil is something of a speciality in Turin. Stupinigi — the extraordinary rococo hunting lodge about five miles from the city centre — is full of it. The flat walls of the Room of Perspectives burst out with balconies and balustrades, columns and cornices, all tricks of the painter Alberoni and, high above a corridor leading to the glittering Great Hall, in a small niche, the same artist has faked an exquisitely misleading glimpse of a spiral staircase to another, non-existent, room.

A more modern and tangible metamorphosis befell the Lingotto factory which Fiat abandoned when it moved out to the Mirafiori complex on the city's outskirts, dreary flatlands of industrial development and housing for the thousands of poor southern Italians who migrated north for work in the postwar boom. Half of Lingotto was turned into a conference centre, the rest into a Meridien Hotel — still with the test track on the roof, the riot-proof railings and guard house and still, from the outside, as brutalist as ever. But inside? What's it like to stay in a five-star car factory? Terrific. Big rooms with high ceilings and whole walls of glass, stretching from floor right up to those high ceilings.

This truly aristocratic city even has ceilings out-of-doors: 12 or 15 miles, depending on who you listen to, of elegant turn-of-the-century arcades shelter pedestrians along the grid pattern of its streets. One industry at least that does not flourish in Turin is umbrella-making.

Turin is also a haven of ornate, elegant 19th-century cafés and restaurants where Camillo Cavour and his cohorts plotted the *risorgimento*, the unification of Italy in the 1860s. In Il Cambio, the famous 18th-century restaurant (the name refers to its history as a staging post for changing horses, rather than anything to do with currency) a nameplate marks his table. "Today we've made history," he is reputed to have said in 1860, "now let's have dinner."

Hunger satisfied, Cavour crossed the road to assemble a parliament for the new kingdom in the Palazzo Carignano where, appropriately, its first king, Vittorio Emmanuele II, had been born in 1829. The oval hall within the extraordinary curving, undulating brick façade of the palace proved too confined for the 443 deputies arguing over the future of a new country and eventually the parliament moved to Florence and then Rome.

But the history of Italy is still there: the Carignano houses the Museum of the Risorgimento with mementoes of its heroes, including one of Garibaldi's famous red shirts — so famous that in 1862 the *Illustrated London News* was advertising "Ladies' Garibaldi jackets".

Culture and cuisine almost alternate around the Piazza Carignano. Beside Il Cambio is the 18th-century Teatro Carignano, then comes Pepino, the most elegant ice-cream parlour you're ever likely to find, and in the next block there is the Egyptian Museum whose collection is second only to that in Cairo itself.

One of several highlights is the collection of artefacts from the 1400BC tomb of Architect Kha and his wife Merit, including the tools of his profession, cosmetics, wigs, combs, games and food — mini-pizzas to boot — to help while away eternity.

> 'We had a trial run with a fake Shroud and we think it will work'

The nourishment of mind and body continues across from the Cathedral in the vast Piazza della Repubblica, which is home to an equally vast market. The array of fresh fruits and vegetables, all Italian-grown but covering every season of the year, emphasises the huge advantage of shopping in a country whose climate covers everything from North African to Alpine.

We lugged our prosciutto and pecorino purchases out of the market and indulged in a Torinese tradition — a mid-morning aperitif accompanied by free *stuzzichini*, the Torinese equivalent of tapas. Turin is the home of the aperitif: a plaque on the corner of Piazza Castello and Via Pietro Micca relates: "In this house in 1786 Antonio Benedetto Carpano created the first vermouth." Carpano also concocted the delicious but pungent aperitif Punt e Mes. Where Carpano trod, others followed and we sampled the whole range in the city's A-list cafés, from Martinis in Caffè Torino on Piazza San Carlo where the tradition of café life is so well established the square is known as "the drawing room of Turin", to the original "Antique Formula Carpano" in the equally elegant Baratti e Milano on Piazza Castello.

Torinese creativity is not restricted to alcoholic mixtures. They claim to have invented the refining of chocolate, and certainly the Caffè Bicerin (Piazza della Consolata), haunt of Nietzsche, Dumas and Puccini, treats it in a unique way. Its *bicerin* — "something delicious" in Torinese dialect — is a combination of coffee, cream and very thick chocolate that, custom dictates, despite glueing itself to the bottom of the glass, should not be stirred. The café is unusual because traditionally, Turin's cafés were frequented only by men plotting business or revolution. Bicerin though was always owned and operated by women and, as it is directly opposite Turin's most fashionable church, La Consolata, ladies hurried to it after communion to break their fast with the quick buzz of the chocolate-coffee combination.

The church, too, is a strange combination. Its interior is lined not just with the gilt and glitter imposed by the architects Guarini and Filippo Juvarra but by hundreds of ex votos, ranging from framed silver epaulettes of soldiers returned safely from battle to "primitive" drawings giving thanks for surviving a gamut of accidents, from falling off a ladder to blowing up the gas stove. At present a side chapel is dedicated to Pier Giorgio Frassati, who is about to be beatified, the first step to becoming a saint. Frassati was editor of *La Stampa*, the daily paper published from Turin. A journalist who becomes a saint? Surely the apotheosis of Torinese creativity.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF **TURIN**



The oldest ice cream parlour in Turin

■ **Getting there:** Sean Hignett travelled with Cresta Holidays (0161-927 7000; brochure line 0990 561814), which offers three nights' B&B at the Meridien Lingotto Hotel from £367, based on two people sharing, including Alitalia flights from Gatwick and transfers. From the Lingotto Hotel to the city centre takes 15 minutes by tram and costs less than 50p, by taxi ten minutes, fare about £4.50.

■ **Seeing the Turin Shroud:** The shroud will be on display in Turin Cathedral from April 18 to June 14. Entry is free but tickets, which are in great demand (more than 800,000 have been requested already) for a specified date and time must be obtained in advance. Freephone number in Great Britain for tickets and information: 0800 967951 (Italian and English spoken). For a pre-visit briefing and spiritual preparation, the Diocese of Turin has a web-site at *http://sindone.torino.chiesacattolica.it* (in Italian, English and French). Related exhibitions include one devoted to images of the Shroud, from 15th-century paintings and engravings through the 1898 negative photograph to computer-enhanced images. One and two-day tours within the region of Piedmont tracing the Shroud's journey from France are also on offer and all the city's historic churches, whether under restoration or not, will be open to the public. The Brothers of the Holy Shroud have a permanent museum at their headquarters, Via S Domenico 28, which may be visited at any time, entry free.

■ **Sightseeing:** Stupinigi Palace, open Tues-Sun 9am-12pm, 2pm-5.30pm. Entry £3.50. No 41 bus from C. Vittorio Emmanuele. Early mornings are best — you have the place to yourself.

Palazzo Carignano, open Tues-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun 9am-1pm.

Egyptian Museum (and the large collection of paintings above it in the Galleria Sabauda) has the same opening hours except Sun 9am-2pm.

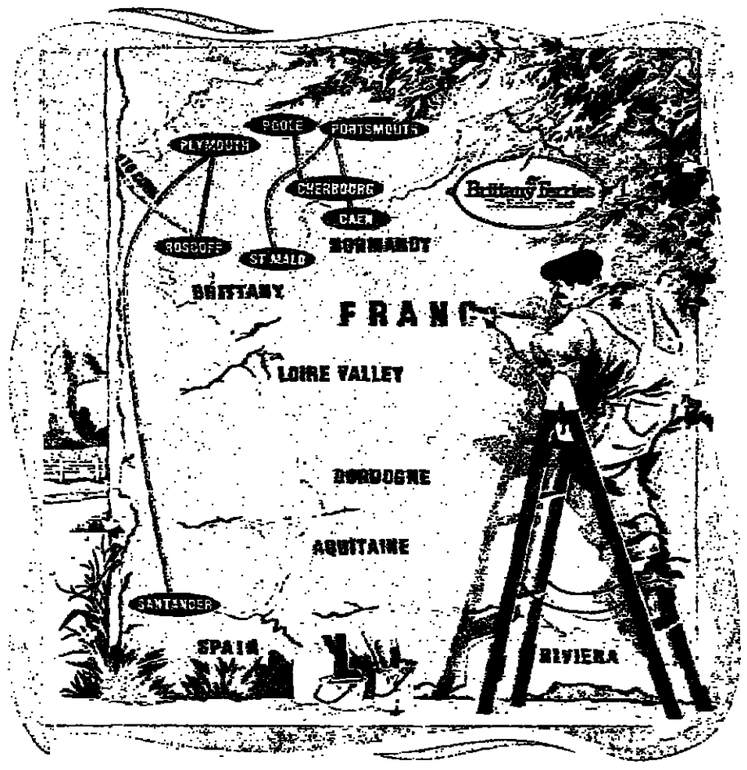
Porta Palazza market, every morning Tues-Fri, all day Sat. There is also a flea market, the Bâlon, on Saturday mornings and a larger one, the Gran Bâlon, on the second Sunday of each month.

It's also worth visiting the Museo dell'Automobile (Corso Unità d'Italia 40) — don't miss the 1929 Isotta Fraschini coupe de ville which Gloria Swanson in drove in *Sunset Boulevard*.

■ **Further information:** Italian State Tourist Board (0171-408 1254).

HOLIDAY FRANCE & SPAIN
DIRECT

LUXURY CRUISE-FERRIES
AWARD-WINNING SERVICE
EXCELLENT RESTAURANTS
DIRECT TO BRITTANY, NORMANDY & SPAIN
IDEAL FOR ALL OF HOLIDAY FRANCE & SPAIN
HUGE CHOICE OF HOLIDAYS



Sailing with your car to Holiday France?
Why drive the long way round when you can sail with us, direct to Brittany, Normandy and Spain?
Our luxury cruise-ferries, with their award-winning service
and value, land you closer to where you'd like to be, saving you wasted fuel and effort.
And our huge range of self-catering and self-drive holidays and breaks
offer you all the finest pleasures of Holiday France and Spain.

Brittany Ferries
The Holiday Fleet

BROCHURES 0990 143 554 RESERVATIONS / INFORMATION 0990 360 360
OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

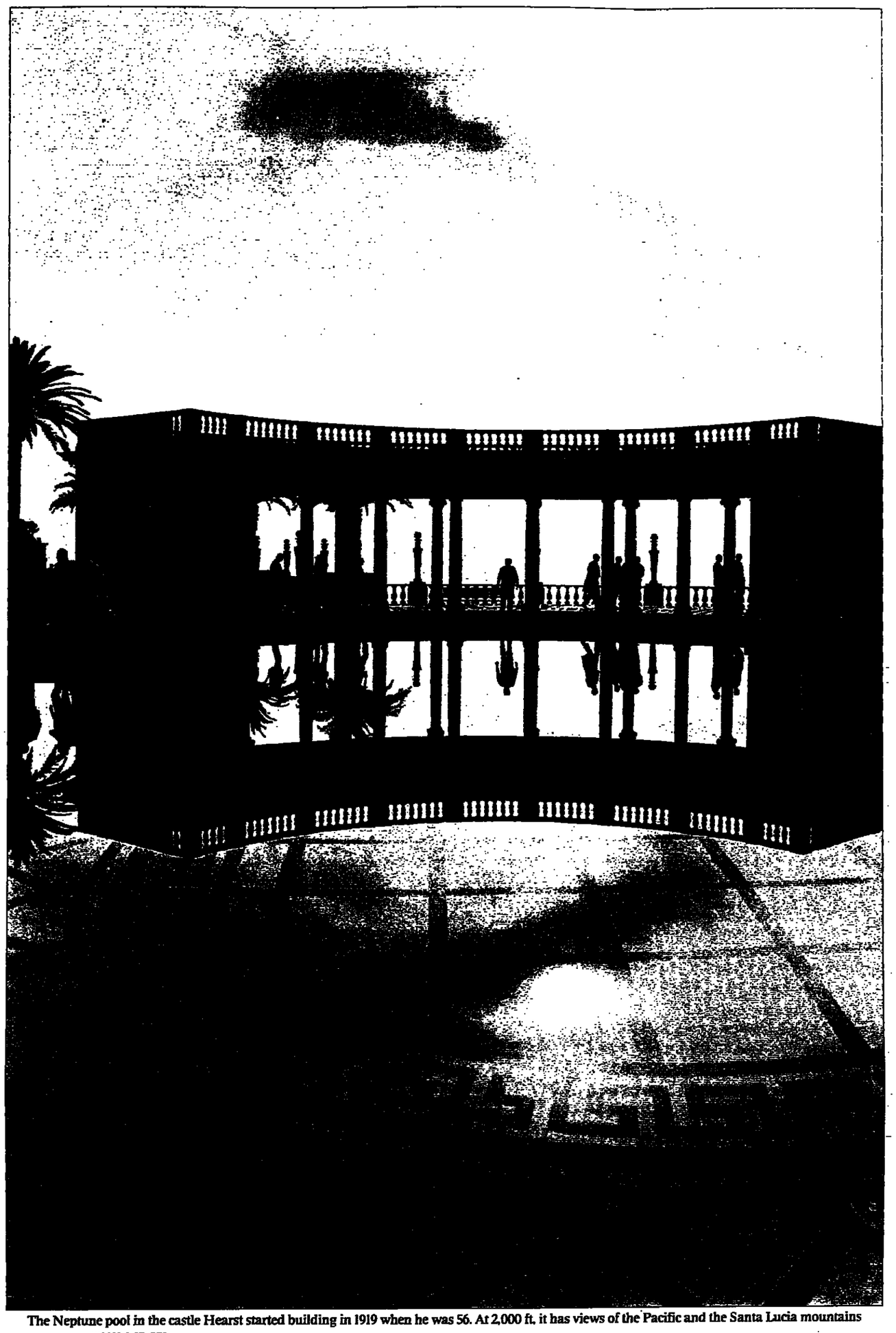
1998 Brochure range: Ferry Guide • Gite Holidays • Holiday Homes & Hotels • Luxury Camping Holidays • Golf Breaks • Hotel Breaks

Calcutta Casualty. Confused:
"Buy the cheapest travel insurance and you end up paying for it."
Why fork out for travel cover that won't save the day? WorldCover's annual policy has a 24hr Medical Helpline to talk to doctors in their own language. Still think you can buy any old travel insurance?
WORLDCOVER
TRAVEL INSURANCE
ONE CALL COVERED
0800 ... 121
The Calcutta ad

Castle folly of the man who would be king



William Randolph Hearst, the newspaper magnate, art collector and millionaire, in 1934



The Neptune pool in the castle Hearst started building in 1919 when he was 56. At 2,000 ft, it has views of the Pacific and the Santa Lucia mountains

W.R. Hearst, the inspiration for Citizen Kane, built a huge castle in California. Peter Fairley paid a visit

He called it "my ranch house". His wife called it "your dirty little ranch house". The State of California calls it "his castle". The visitor might be forgiven for calling it "his folly".

Whatever anybody calls Hearst Castle, the place is as charismatic and enigmatic as the man who built it — William Randolph Hearst Snr, newspaper magnate, hoarder of art treasures, great lover and *bon viveur* and — in turn — pauper and millionaire. It is his monument and this year marks the 40th anniversary of the bequest of the castle to the American nation by the Hearst family.

Remote and mysterious, perched 2,000 ft up in the Californian hills and often above the cloud-line, Hearst Castle is somewhere you can feel the atmosphere and hear the echoes of the past. It is uncanny, almost eerie.

But to appreciate the castle to the full, you need to know something of its creator, whose personality is stamped all over it — as background. I read Hearst's autobiography before going.

Hearst died, aged 88, in 1951. Immortalised by Orson Welles in the film *Citizen Kane*, he once owned not only a publishing *empire* but also 94 separate businesses, one of the world's largest art collections and seven castles.

His parents — who were self-made millionaires — originally owned the prospecting rights to the land on which Hearst Castle is built, which commands magnificent views of the Pacific on one side, and the craggy, Santa Lucia mountains on the other. As a boy, Hearst and his friends "bagged" the highest part, named it Camp Hill and spent their holidays in tents there.

It was his mother who sparked his interest in castles (among the seven he bought was St. Donat's in Wales), on an 18-month European tour at the age of ten. They explored many ruins and dallied for hours in antique shops and art galleries. When they reached the Louvre, Hearst (showing early signs of his acquisitive tendencies) asked his mother to buy it for him.

As he grew richer, the desire to possess beautiful objects grew stronger. One European antique dealer sent him a catalogue and asked him to mark anything which might be of interest. "Send me the lot," Hearst replied, with typical panache.

Marble statues, Roman mosaics, Renaissance fireplaces, French cabinets, Mexican armour, Persian rugs, portable Spanish trunk-escritoires — he collected so many that he had to keep building rooms to display them. Even today, there are basement rooms stuffed full of *objets d'art* still in their packing cases. I asked to see some but was told they were "no go" areas.

Work on the dream castle started in 1919, when Hearst was 56. He squandered millions on it, as if to create one perfection in an otherwise imperfect life. But Millicent, his wife, loathed it and withdrew to New York, leaving the way clear for him to install his mistress — the beautiful Hollywood film star Marion Davies — in what is still called the Celestial Suite.

It has two bedrooms, neither of which Hearst spent much time in. With 94 different businesses to run, he regarded sleep as "a waste of time", normally getting by on four to five hours a night.

Evidence of his workaholism is that the castle and grounds are inundated with telephones — 130 of them — by beds, baths, swimming pools, behind statues and under trees. Every one is an Art Deco gem. I picked a handset up by a rhododendron bush. To my amazement, a gruff voice said: "Please put the phone *down*."

W. R. H. was an active journalist for 66 years, owning 26 newspapers, 14 magazines, five news services, 11 radio stations and one movie company. Many of his publications, including *Good Housekeeping*, still hang from the reading racks in his study. His fascination for descriptive writing extended to tapestries: nearly every room contains a needleworked picture-story, some measuring 35 ft by 12 ft.

"To Hearst, tapestries told stories before newsprint," our guide Mathilda, a relative of one of the old family retainers, explained. "He used to call them 'my back numbers department'."

The dream took shape over 27 years under the imaginitive direction of Julia Morgan, a San Francisco architect. "Hearst would cable ideas to her, sometimes three times a day," she explained.

The result is an incongruous mixture of Spanish and Italian styles, collectively described as "Mediterranean Revival" in the tourist brochures. Dominating everything is the four-storey Casa Grande, looking, with its turreted bell towers, like a piece of Disney World, with three lavishly furnished guesthouses — Casa del Mar, Casa del Monte and Casa del Sol — clustered around it.

To these, the luggage of up to 40 weekend guests at a time was humped by a retinue of servants: while its owners — darlings of the movies, powerful men from Washington, executives of Hearst publications, adventurers, explorers, relatives and friends — rushed off to be greeted by their affable hosts, Marion and "Pops", as Hearst was affectionately nicknamed. (Today, bags and cameras have to be left at the bottom of the hill.)

The visitors' book makes fascinating reading. Among scores of famous names, I spotted Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, Winston Churchill, Bing Crosby, Cary Grant, David Niven and Walt Disney.

The house parties were legendary and the relics remain on view — spare shorts, shoes and tennis rackets, swimming costumes, jodhpurs and crops — even musical instruments for the hill-billy sessions which W. R. H. sometimes suggested for picnics. Meals were taken in the Refectory, decked out like a mediaeval banqueting hall with ornate wood walls, a huge Gothic fireplace and colourful silk banners overhead.

The massive oak table, capable of seating 40, is still set with gold-rimmed, willow-pattern china and expensive silver: but in the middle of all the elegance is a line of bottles of ketchup. According to Mathilda, these — like the paper napkins supplied to guests — reminded Hearst of his early camping days.

The Assembly Room, where the rule was "only one cocktail before dinner", has been preserved, as has the private theatre to which guests were taken to see pre-release movies or "oldies", many of them starring Marion Davies.

Thanks to the pride which William Randolph Hearst Jr took in his flamboyant father and the family lifestyle, you can see almost everything as it was in those "good old days".

If you are fit enough to cope with the twisting-turret steps, grand staircases and acres of floor space — and rich enough to go on four different tours — the Castle offers a unique opportunity to feel a part of the Hearst empire at its height.

HEARST CASTLE FACT FILE

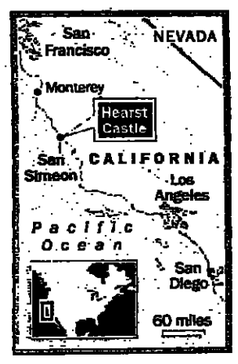
■ Hearst Castle (001 805 927 2020) — 240 miles north of Los Angeles and 220 miles south of San Francisco — is open all year round (8am to 3.20pm). There are four different tours, lasting roughly two hours each; adults £8.75, children aged 6 to 12, £5.

■ Tour No. 1 includes the entertainment rooms in the main house, the esplanade, gardens and one of the guest cottages. No. 2 shows the upper floors of the main house, including Hearst's private suite, study, library and the kitchen. The third tour shows the suites built in Hearst's final years and includes a video about the Castle's construction. The fourth tour (April to October), shows the gardens, esplanade, guest cottage, swimming-pool dressing rooms and wine cellar.

■ Getting there: Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747) has return flights from Heathrow to Los Angeles and San Francisco from £544 until June 10. British Airways (0345 222111) has flights to San Francisco from £441.10 and Los Angeles from £442.90; must be booked three days in advance.

■ Car hire: Holiday Autos (0990 300400) has a week's all-inclusive Group A car hire from Los Angeles airport or San Francisco International Airport for £165.

■ Where to stay: The Cavalier Oceanfront Resort (805 927 4688), a motel in San Simeon, a small town three miles away on the coast, has double rooms from £60.60 and family rooms (with two double beds and room for cots) from £65.40.



■ Reading: Hunt for out-of-print copies of *William Randolph Hearst: A New Appraisal* by John Kennedy Winkler (Hastings House, New York, 1955); *William Randolph Hearst: A Portrait in His Own Words* ed. Edmond D. Coblentz (Simon and Schuster, New York, 1952). *California & Nevada* (Lonely Planet, £12.99).



WORLD PICTURES

Hearst Castle's palatial dining room, still set for 40 guests

Hearst golf plans hit a bunker

WILLIAM Randolph Hearst was one of the most powerful men of his time, but his successors are struggling to match his influence. *Tom Chesshyre writes.*

The Hearst Corporation — which is partly run by Hearst family heirs — has had plans to build hotels, shops, restaurants and a golf course in and around San Simeon, the closest town to Hearst Castle, rejected by the Californian Coastal Commission.

Environmentalists, who argued that a resort would ruin one of the last unspoilt stretches of coastline between Los Angeles and San Francisco, persuaded the Commission to block the development. Limits on the amount of land that can be developed for housing in the area were also put in place, and measures to protect local wildlife (including elephant seals, steelhead trout and red-legged frogs), as well as a block on any widening of the two-lane main road along the coast.

The Commission will only allow a 375-room hotel, without a golf course — the linchpin to the Hearst development plans in San Simeon.

A spokesman for the Sierra Club, an environmental protection group, said: "We were very pleased with the Commission's decision."

The Hearst Corporation is considering an appeal.



Winter Sails 20% off.

For a limited period, we're offering discounts of up to 20% on most of our cruises between October '98 and April '99.

(What better way to ease those winter blues than to run away to sea on one of our luxury liners?)

This winter's programme offers a world of exotic destinations. All you have to do is pick yours.

Barbados. Rio. Cape Town. Bali. Mauritius. Sydney. Pago Pago (the list goes on almost as long as one of our menus).

We've everything from a 5 night Cruise Break to a 3 month World Cruise, with prices starting from just £505*.

If you'd like more details, cut out the coupon or call us on 0990 726 726.

P&O Cruises

Name: _____ title

Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

For a copy of our Winter 1998/99 brochure see your ABTA Travel Agent, call 0990 726 726 or post this coupon to P&O Brochure Services, 77 New Oxford St, London WC1A 1PP.



*Price per adult for inside 4 berth cabin, case 880. Discount is 15% on holidays up to 10 nights and 20% on 10 nights and over. We have set aside cabins in selected grades on various cruise holidays which are available for Winter Savers fares. Once sold, the fare for the grade and cruise will revert to brochure fare. Not available at every grade on every cruise. Subject to availability.

SKI WEEKEND: END OF TERM REPORT

Go straight to the top of the class

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT



After four seasons, carving skis (shown here) dominate the shops and the slopes, but Britons must make more effort to master them. Overall, this season has been excellent on the slopes of North America but not so great in the Alps



DOUG SCOTT

Our ski correspondent gives his verdict on the best – and worst – of the ski season, and suggests where we will go and how we will be skiing next year

In the Alps it was at best a C season, with snow coming too little and too late for the kind of deep-powder early skiing we so enjoyed last season. Off-piste skiing gets low marks, though there were a few high points — mid-January's metre-plus downfall, for example.

Overall, France and Italy had significantly better snow conditions throughout the season than Switzerland or Austria. All-night snow-grooming and investment in snow-making kept most pistes open in the more diligent resorts. But by early spring many south-facing exposures were bare and runs down to resort villages, particularly in Austria, were thinly covered and icy for much of the winter.

In North America, the El Niño phenomenon played out as predicted. Conditions there were far superior to those in the Alps, rating a solid B. California, where Mammoth Mountain measured more than 600cm of snow, deserves an A. Colorado got only half the snow it received last year, but still deserves a B+. Canada had a B- season overall.

With mountain-top video cameras broadcasting undoctored images over the Internet, snow reporting achieved new immediacy. Of our two free Internet snow reporting services, I give the Ski Club of Great Britain (*http://www.skiclub.co.uk*) a B- and Ski Hotline (*http://www.skihotline.com*) a B+. The Ski Club gets extra credit for its recent statistics on snow depths. But Ski Hotline is faster, more comprehensive and easier to navigate.

RESORTS

THERE were more than 100 new additions to tour operator brochures this season (although most of them were already familiar to the skiing public). One new face, Ste-Foy, and the firm with which it made its debut, The Ski Company, deserve an A+. The Ski Company (acknowledged as leader of the damn-the-expense chalet companies pack) is shortly merging with Meriski, the Méribel chalet specialist, under the umbrella of Brown Rock whose owners also own the Dick's Tea-Bar nightclub chain.

Just 20 minutes away from Val d'Isère, Ste-Foy is a tiny *hamlet ideal for families*, good for day trips to other ski areas in the French Tarentaise, and an off-piste powder playground suitable for intermediates and experts. The Yellowstone Chalet at Ste-Foy is the loveliest I have seen anywhere in the Alps.

Full marks to Crystal for its bravery in introducing the hard-core, off-piste cult resort of Alagna into a mainstream brochure. But Alagna fails miserably in terms of accommodation, access to nearby Gressoney and the general unsuitability of its skiing for anyone who is not an experienced mountaineer.

Extra points again to Crystal for launching helicopter skiing packages in the former Soviet Union. Unfortunately, Gudauri — an outpost in the Caucasus mountains of Georgia — turned out to be a nightmare for a colleague who said the electricity was intermittent, as were the helicopters, and the guides took the party into an avalanche.

A solid A goes to Frontier Ski, a small firm specialising in Canadian action holidays, and its new resort, Fernie. Long neglected, Fernie will be featured in next season's Inghams brochure. Fernie's success is down to its snow — as much as 10 metres deep and *unusually light and fluffy*. I have put it at the top of my list for must-trys next season.

TOOLS

SOME students stubbornly refuse to adapt to new technology. Four seasons on, carving skis overwhelmingly dominate the shops and the slopes.



All-night snow-making and grooming kept most resorts open in a bad season

Even specialist telemark and deep powder skis now appear with the broad tip and narrow waist. Britons must try harder at changing from the old-fashioned tail-sliding technique to carving more precise turns. They should find out which of the new shapes is most suitable and then relearn the simple tricks of skiing on the edges.

OPERATORS

MAINSTREAM tour operators succeeded so well with the debut of direct charter flights to Denver this season that BA will start its own scheduled Denver service from June 1. Charter flights this winter got me to Denver hours ahead of any scheduled airline (and on time for onward connections to other American resort airports).

Among mainstream tour operators, Thomson deserves to go to the head of the class for effort alone. It is the only firm to offer free packed lunches in all resorts, the only brochure to include independent accommodation and resort appraisals from *The Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide* (Which? Books, £15.99) — and from holiday-makers themselves.

Verbier deserves bonus marks for its successful efforts to hold together the unravelling Four Valleys ski pass network, coming up with a package which gives skiers more resorts and more skiing terrain (410km). It also announced the most eagerly awaited new ski lift in the Alps, an eight-person telecabine which will cut waiting time in the popular Tortin sector. This lift should open next Christmas.

The Eurostar ski train service from London Waterloo to Moutiers and on to Bourg-St-Maurice was a hit with many skiers. But only 30 per cent of all tickets were available to the general public, as opposed to the tour operators. The train also disappoints by rushing past more northerly French resorts like Chamonix, and is useless for southern resorts such as Alpe d'Huez and Les Deux Alpes. Eurostar says it will decide about more seats and routes within the next few weeks.

DUNCES

FRENCH ski teachers go to the bottom of the class. The ESF (Ecole du Ski Français) this season forced an end to tour operators' free piste-guiding service in several of the most popular French resorts. The move has created ill-feeling among tour operators and holidaymakers alike, the former having to pay huge sums for French escorts and the latter deprived of their friendly British group leaders.

Aspen is awarded the dunce's cap for not knowing whether it does or does not have the highest lift-served skiing anywhere in North America, and maybe even the Alps as well. Asked to back up its claim that it was the highest, Aspen issued a retraction. Later it bragged about being the highest in America but said it was "still not sure" about the Alps.

PREVIEW

FORECASTERS predict an excellent snow season ahead as El Niño gives way to a sister weather phenomenon, La Niña, which promises colder than usual temperatures in Europe and powder snowfalls in North America. Booking now, even before most brochures come out, is a good idea — especially if you know where and when you want to go. Some of the best chalet accommodation has already been reserved for Christmas and half-term holidays.

The bigger brochures have already been launched. Thomson rewards early bookers with £25 off every ski holiday purchased before the end of April. Crystal advertises savings of up to £200 per couple on selected holidays, valid to the end of May. First Choice is offering Glasgow, Newcastle and Birmingham departures for the price of Gatwick on bookings made before April 14.

High marks go to Crystal and Inghams, the only mainstream operators to offer full off-piste and helicopter skiing cover in their insurance packages. Thomson does cover off-piste but not helicopter skiing. Airtours is typical of the other operators, saying nothing in the brochure about off-piste or helicopter skiing cover, merely advising customers to ring up first if they intend doing anything "hazardous" on holiday.

Several operators offer free accommodation for children during selected weeks. Inghams and Crystal offer free insurance for children up to 18. Thomson for children between two and 16. First Choice is introducing Friday-night flights from Gatwick to Lyons, with an extra half-day's skiing for those headed to Les Deux Alpes, Val d'Isère and Les Menuires at a reduced price because of the evening flight.

Crystal (0181-399 5144); Inghams (0181-780 4444); First Choice (0870 7542754); Thomson (0990 329329); Airtours (08701 577775); Frontier (0181-776 8709); The Ski Company (0171-730 9600 until end April); Eurostar (0345 303030).

Lunn Poly
The Cruise Specialists

UP TO 33% OFF
DAWN PRINCESS
CARIBBEAN CRUISES

The Dawn Princess Winter 1998/9 brochure is available only at Lunn Poly, where you can save up to 33% on a luxury Caribbean cruise. Enjoy a choice of one or two week cruises taking in the beauty of up to ten different exotic ports of call in the Caribbean and experience the magnificence of Grand Class cruising on board the spectacular Dawn Princess. What's more on many cruises we'll give you a free cabin upgrade when you book at Lunn Poly. Just take out our Holidaycare insurance at the same time.* Book now at your local Lunn Poly Holiday Shop or call the Cruise Hotline on 01203 223300.†

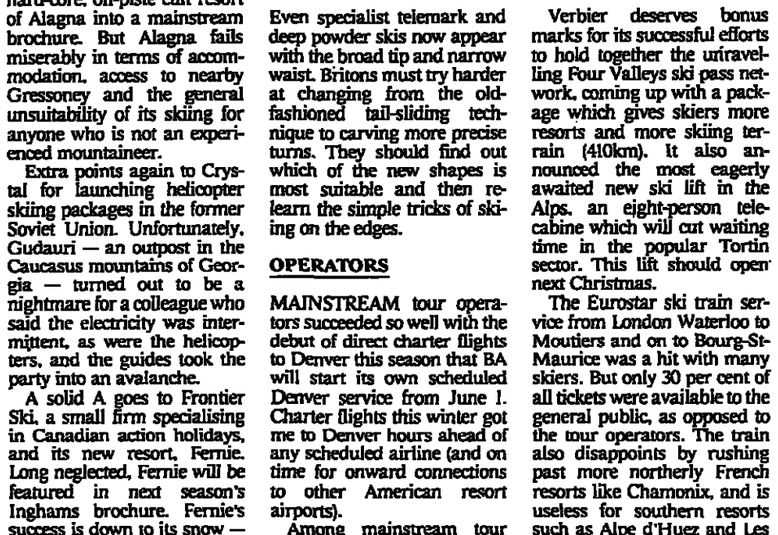
CHECK LUNN POLY PRICES BEFORE YOU BOOK

With great offers like these, no wonder Lunn Poly is No.1 for Cruises.

PRINCESS CRUISES
A P&O Company

Lunn Poly
A better way to getaway

Up to 33% combines Princess' double passenger and Lunn Poly's current discount. Offer subject to availability and cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or discount. Offer applies to new bookings only. Lunn Poly reserve the right to withdraw this offer without notice. Some offers are not available in Northern Ireland. *Typical insurance costs £54.75 for 17 days cover. †Lines are open Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. Methods of payment accepted: Mastercard/American Express/Visa/Switch/Delta. Credit card surcharge of 1% applies. Surcharge does not apply to bookings over £2000. Full details available in shops.



Mammoth Mountain, in California, had more than 600cm of snow this winter

Weekender Plus
SPRING BREAKS

Great value weekend breaks across Europe and further afield

245 hotels - 169 destinations
1 March - 30 September 1998

From only £32* Per room per night

* available at 13 hotels

Breakfast included

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza · Holiday Inn · Holiday Inn · Holiday Inn Garden Court · Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza

For reservations and further information
0800 897 121

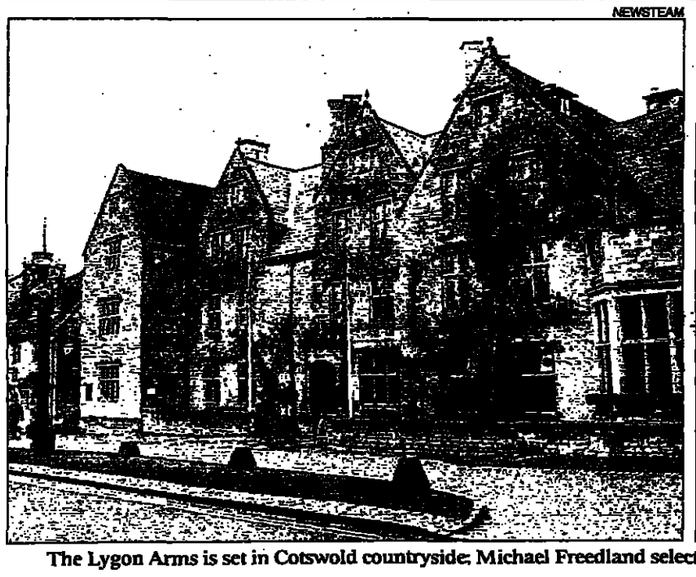
هذا من الأصل



A blind sausage-tasting in the kitchen establishes that the variety being served is still the best. The writer, second from right, gives his opinion

It's all in a (long) day's work

What makes a great hotel? Determined to discover the trade secrets, **Michael Freedland** becomes manager, for a day, at the Lygon Arms


NEWSTEAM



The Lygon Arms is set in Cotswold countryside; Michael Freedland selects a new champagne for the hotel

Try to imagine the moment when the boy who wanted to be an engine driver rode on the footplate, or when the kid who yearned to play for Arsenal scored the winning goal.

I had always wondered what it would be like to run a hotel: what was behind those doors marked "private"? What goes on in the kitchens? What do the chamber staff get up to? Would it really be as manic as it is in *Fawlty Towers* and fly-on-the-wall TV documentaries like the BBC's recent *Hotel*?

So I contacted the five-star Lygon Arms at Broadway, probably the most beautiful village in the heart of the Cotswolds. They were game and decided to give me a (supervised) go at being manager for a day.

I was being dropped in the deep end. The Lygon Arms isn't just any old hotel. It is part of the Savoy Group and takes between £10,000 and £40,000 a day — many of the regular guests are celebrities.

It is also steeped in history; it figured in the Civil War and includes a staircase down which Charles I was said to have fled — almost every floorboard creaks with history. There is said to be a Lygon ghost; rumoured to be either Charles I with his head tucked underneath his arm or Oliver Cromwell, who was once a guest and has a suite named in his honour.

I was taking the place of Kirk Ritchie, the 48-year-old managing director and general manager of the Lygon for 20 years. A little daunted by my total lack of experience, I set to work, not knowing what to expect.

8.03am: Read the papers to see if the stock market is doing well — there is normally a rush of bookings if prices are up. There is a race meeting at Cheltenham (15 miles away) coming up soon, so I make sure there is enough wine in stock — the most expensive bottle in the hotel costs £750. It is the manager's duty to sample all the hotel fare, but unfortunately this does not extend to the most costly wines.

9am: The staff meeting. Eight executives assemble and we go through the bookings. Mr and Mrs G are coming tonight, important customers. The computer says they have paid 36 visits and have so far spent a total of £14,839.40 at the hotel. The screen says that Mrs G likes summer pudding for dessert. I phone the chef to tell him. Another guest's details show she wants one pillow — on the left-hand side of the bed.

Some problems are discussed. Jeffrey Mackins, the restaurant manager, is concerned about unstarched napkins. The reception manager, Sharon Murdoch, says the telephones have been playing up. "I've tried to phone the company to tell them to put it right, but their line was busy," she complains.

10.07am: The kitchen. It's sausage testing time. Someone has complained that the breakfast sausages are too spicy, so ten varieties have been prepared by the hotel's butchers for a blind trial. Finally, everyone agrees that plate ten is the best — succulent, tasty. "That's the one we serve at the moment," says Roger Narbett, the head chef, somewhat self-satisfied.

11am: The tasting took longer than expected. The hotel has to be looked over. I discover there are three walking speeds — fast, very fast and hotel manager's pace, which is very fast indeed. As we rush around, however, there is still time to rearrange a cushion or two in the spacious Russell room, a lounge with a wonderful roaring log fire.

Then on to the country club — a vast complex dominated by the indoor pool but with beauty salon, massage, steam and sauna rooms and health club. I put some plastic covers over my shoes so I can walk to the side of the pool and chat to one of the swimmers. He is a local who is a member of the club — he tells me how much he loves the countryside around Broadway.

11.26am: Sales meeting. There are still 89 rooms to sell in January and 214 in February. James Partridge, the conference manager, mentions a society wedding in June — the family has put the Lygon on their list of hotels for guests. "That's going to be the big wedding this year," says Kirk.

11.48am: Check the rooms currently being refurbished. A couple coming for the Cheltenham races always demand Room 52. I tell the builders it must be ready in time. The foreman wants approval for the colour to be used in the bathrooms. "Yellow or blue?" he asks. I suggest blue, but the shade is wrong. He promises to produce a sample that afternoon.

12.35pm: Another meeting, this time to discuss another restaurant problem. People are booking for Sunday lunch and not turning up. Take a credit card number, I suggest. We agree on a £10 charge per person for those who don't show.

Jeffrey tells me that Lord and Lady H were in for lunch on Saturday. "Still ordering egg and chips?" asks Kirk. "Not this time, but they always want something that is not on the menu," is the reply.

1.14pm: Lunch in front of the log fire in the Russell room — a plate of healthy smoked salmon. While we sit and ponder I say I find it difficult to put out the lights in bedrooms and suggest there should be one central switch. (By the way, the Lygon gets through 4,000 light-bulbs, 30,000 bars of soap, 700 kilos of smoked salmon and 140 tons of logs for those fireplaces each year.)

1.47pm: Welcome guests in the car-park. One woman has two little dogs on a lead. I inform her that there are two baskets in her room with two bowls at the foot of each, one for water, one for the best dog food in Worcestershire. There is also a supply of dog biscuits and choc drops.

2pm: Inspect the new carpet in the staff quarters. I'm told the staff like the blue shade. I approve it. Beginning to feel quite tired.

2.35pm: I have to choose the skirt material for the receptionists' uniforms (whatever next!). Should it be grey, brown or blue? I plump for the grey. The French receptionist Celine beams. She thinks it was a good choice.

The decorator rejoins us. He has found a new blue shade for the bathroom paint. That's better, I say. We'll go for that.

3pm: A meeting to welcome new staff in one of our conference suites. We tell them — the new linen porter, the receptionist, the new driver, the kitchen helper on work experience — to relax and remember that they are representatives of the Lygon. Always pick up litter, open doors for guests, who must be addressed by name. "When they come up to you, the answer is always 'yes'," says Kirk (who is "shadowing" me).

4.35pm: I am beginning to wilt, so Maggie, my secretary, serves me tea (Darjeeling). There are still more staff to see, more phone calls to make, more purchasing orders to approve.

5.15pm Welcome more guests. Check Mrs G's summer pudding is being remembered.

5.45pm: A chimney is blocked in one of the lounges. A new lining may be necessary, which could be costly. Decide to find out whether it would be more sensible to have a gas-fire installed instead.

6.15pm: Supplier brings in a new sparkling wine, Pelorus 1993 from Cloudy Bay, New Zealand. We visit the cellar. It is lined with bottles — and jars of things such as cranberry juice — and is the perfect place to try wine. By this time, any place is a good place to taste wine. I drink a sample and give my approval.

7pm: Another tour of the hotel. Curtains need to be closed more neatly. Shocked to discover lights on in empty rooms.

7.35pm: Finally off-duty. Have dinner with Kirk. I offer him his job back and he is delighted to accept. I am glad he does — I was not reduced to Basil Fawlty levels of frustration and despair, but it had been an exhausting day. My hotel manager dreams had been more than fully satisfied.

LYGON ARMS FACT FILE

Michael Freedland was a guest of the Lygon Arms, Broadway, Worcs WR12 7DU (01386 852255). Single rooms are from £105 a night, doubles from £165, and the Charles I suite (with four-poster bed) is £375 — continental breakfasts included.

■ The Lygon Arms is offering a specially priced package for *Times* readers who mention this article. Two nights in a double or twin room is £230 per person, based on two sharing, including a bottle of champagne, evening meals and breakfast. Offer runs until May 8 (excluding the Bank Holiday weekend, May 1-4).

■ Guests have use of the country club, although there are charges for massages or beauty treatments. There is also a floodlit tennis court and a billiard room.

■ Broadway is in the heart of the Cotswolds, a half hour drive from Oxford, 36 miles away. It nestles between the Malvern Hills and the Vale of Evesham and is 90 miles from London.

Anthea Lawson finds the best last-minute departures on offer



☐ FESTIVE Cruises (0990 758758) is offering readers of *The Times* a discount of £200 off a 12-night cruise departing Cardiff on April 25. Travelling via the Scillies to Spain, Portugal and Morocco, the highlight is a two-day visit to Seville during the fiesta. The special price of £499 includes coach transfer to Cardiff, full board, entertainments and port taxes. Mention *The Times* when you book to claim your discount.

☐ GET SOME *fresh spring* air in your lungs on a Mediterranean walking holiday with Waymark (01753 516477). Places are available on April 26 at Quatretondeta in Spain, where seven days' walking through olive groves, limestone hills and Moorish ruins will cost £435 including half-board, flights and taxes. From May 2 you can spend a week exploring at Kas in Turkey for £575, walking to famous archaeological remains through mountains and coastal villages.

☐ MOSWIN (0116-271 9922) is offering savings of up to £105 on city breaks in Budapest. Until June, a two-night stay at the five-star Kempinski Hotel costs £399 per person including flight from Heathrow and half board. Two nights at the four-star K&K Hotel Opera will cost £311 per person.

☐ FOR THOSE wishing to travel further afield for their spring break, Qantas Holidays (0990 673464) has reduced its seven-night packages to Bali from £589 to £499 until April 30. Return flights from Heathrow leave five days a week; the price also includes transfers, taxes, and seven nights at the Puri Santrian Hotel. Extra nights cost £23.

☐ TRIPS to Singapore are half price until April 30 with Asean Explorer (01481 823417). Three nights' accommodation in a first-class hotel, scheduled flights and a city tour are reduced from £889 per person to £425. Extra nights for £19.

☐ A RELAXING two-night break at the Warpool Court Hotel in St Davids on the Pembrokeshire coast is available from Sunvil UK (0181-232 9788) for £157 per person, including dinner and full English breakfast.

☐ THE ACTIVE can opt for a weekend break this spring at the Nuffield Priory country house hotel in Surrey, which has organised special deals with the Aqua Sports Country Club next door. Individual watersports tuition is available at concessionary prices for hotel guests. A two night break costs from £59 per person per night. For more information call 01737 822066.

☐ AUSTRAVEL (0171-734 7755) is offering bargains on single and return flights to Sydney departing from London on April 21 and 28. One-way with Airtours costs only £149; returns are available until the end of June on Japan Airlines for £399, including one nights' accommodation in Tokyo.

☐ MEON Villas (01730 268411) has savings of up to £176 on self-catering holidays in Corfu departing May 4 and 11. One week in an apartment


Visit the famous fiesta in Seville on a cruise trip

or private villa based on four sharing costs £199 per person, including return flights from Gatwick or Manchester, transfers, and maid service. On some of the deals, car-hire with unlimited mileage is included.

☐ *LAST-MINUTE* Mediterranean cruise bargains are on offer from Festival Cruises (0171-436 0827). The Bolero sails from Italy on April 27 for ten nights to destinations in Greece and Turkey, costing from £585 per person; the Flamenco sails on April 30 to Turkey, Israel and the Greek islands, from £765 per person. Prices include flights from Heathrow, full board, daytime activities and evening entertainments. Port charges of around £90 not included.

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday 13 April to Saturday 18 April, 1998
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

Route	Promotional Fare	Flexible Fare
London – Amsterdam	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£199 Transavia (ex-Gatwick)
London – Brussels	from £66 Virgin Express (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£200 Sabena (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick/City)
London – Dublin	£69 BA (ex-Gatwick)	from £139 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Glasgow	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£206 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Krakow	£159 BA (ex-Gatwick)	£624 BA (ex-Gatwick)
Edinburgh – Munich	£99 BA	£648 BA
Newcastle – Paris	£109 BA	£427 BA
London – Phoenix	£399 BA (ex-Gatwick)	£1,684 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – Valencia	£145 BA (ex-Gatwick)	£546 BA (ex-Gatwick)
Southampton – Zurich	£99 BA	£420 BA

Airline telephone numbers
Sabena 0181-780 1444
British Airways (BA) 0345 222111
easyJet 0990 292929
Transavia 01293 596650
Virgin Express 0171-744 0004

Notes
* Fares shown do not include taxes.
* Prices shown in left-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty; in all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.

Discover the sun charmed islands of the Mediterranean

Naples - Kusadasi, 15 days 19 August - 2 September 1998

This August enjoy some island hopping in the Aegean with Swan Hellenic. Visit lovely Capri, explore Odysseus' island of Ithaca, the Crusader town of Rhodes and the pretty islands of Symi and Santorini. Whilst on the mainland you discover such magnificent sites as the Acropolis and Delphi.

Join us as we explore these destinations through our programme of tailor-made excursions - which seek out what other travellers miss. Helping bring every destination to life with their informal talks are guest speakers.

We travel on board the charming 300 passenger ship Minerva, a floating country house hotel.

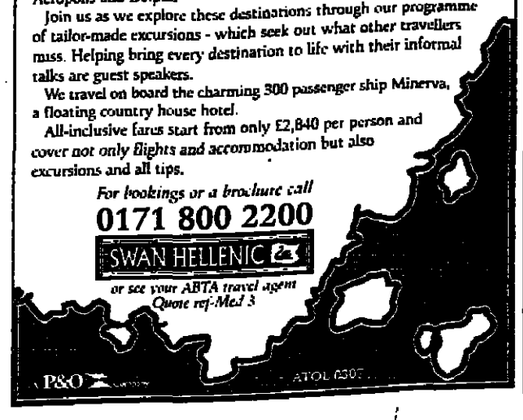
All-inclusive fares start from only £2,840 per person and cover not only flights and accommodation but also excursions and all tips.

For bookings or a brochure call

0171 800 2200

SWAN HELLENIC

or see your ABTA travel agent
Quote ref-Med 3



P&O ATOL 0307

LAKE COMO & ADRIATIC CRUISE

INCLUDING TWO DAYS IN VENICE ON CRUISE

A week at the 4-star Grand Hotel Menaggio on Lake Como on half board and a week-long cruise from Venice around the 1000 islands off the Dalmatian Coast to the Pearl of the Adriatic Dubrovnik

This wonderful summertime journey combines the beauty of the Italian Lakes with visits to Verona, Venice and a week-long cruise through the thousand islands off the Dalmatian Coast. The journey commences with a flight from Heathrow with British Midland to Venice and on to Menaggio on the shores of Lake Como for the next seven nights at the 4-star Grand Hotel Menaggio. Then drive via historic Verona to Venice where we board the MV Dalmatia for a week-long cruise around the spectacular 1185 islands, islets and reefs of the Dalmatian coast. This unique combination of natural beauty is matched only by masterful architecture of the magnificent cities and harbours along the route from Venice, Pula, Split and Dubrovnik. On the return to Venice fly to Heathrow.

THE MV DALMATIA

Under the management supervision of our associates in Switzerland to ensure high standards of service, the vessel comes equipped with the latest navigational aids, stabilisers, safety certified 'Solas 2000' and was refurbished in 1997, displaces 5,650 tons, with satellite communications, one sitting restaurant, two bars, fitness centre, laundry, entertainment lounge and swimming pool. There are 142 cabins all with ensuite facilities spread over 5 decks and she is fully air-conditioned.

14 NIGHTS FROM £795



DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

1998 Saturdays - per person in a twin or hotel and cabin as below:
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Jun 6, 13, 20, 27 - Jul 4, 11, 18, 25 - Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Sep 5, 12, 19, 26 - Oct 3, 10
Run-of-the-Ship: Inside only £795
Lower Deck: Inside 4 bed £845 - Outside 4 bed £925
Inside 2 bed £975 - Outside 2 bed £1045
Main Deck: Inside 2 bed £1085 - Outside 2 bed £1200.
Upper, Promenade and Sun decks on application.
Single Supplement - plus 40% of the above prices

Includes: transportation, port charges, UK departure tax, half board in Como, full board on cruise. Not included: shore excursions, overseas airport tax, insurance, tips. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

0171-616 1000

VJV

VOYAGES JULES VERNE
21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG

Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA Y1661 ATOL 1903B
Our offices are open Monday to Friday 9am-8pm and at weekends and Bank Holidays for telephone reservations 9.00am-5.00pm. For personal visitor office hours are 10am-5pm weekdays only.

CHECK-IN

Australia New Zealand

Open Throughout Easter

- Car & campervan hire, air, rail & coach passes.
- Accommodation from budget to luxury.

AUSTRALIA FARES FROM £463 RETURN

NEW ZEALAND FARES FROM £605 RETURN

☎ 01420-88724 or 0171-287 5556

USA Canada

- Tailor-Made Self-Drive packages
- Any city, state, destination
- Coach tours

Pop in and see us today, centrally located in Piccadilly Circus

USA FARES FROM £199 RETURN

CANADA FARES FROM £290 RETURN

☎ 01420-88380 or 0171-287 5559

Far East

- HONG KONG
- THAILAND • BALI
- MALAYSIA
- BANGKOK
- SINGAPORE
- INDIA

We are tailormade specialists and can arrange flights, accommodation and tours.

FAR EAST FARES FROM £290 RETURN

MALAYSIA FROM £399 pp

☎ 01420-80828 or 0171-287 5558

Southern Africa

- South Africa • Botswana
- Namibia • Zimbabwe

- New adventure & tours for all ages, fabulous safaris, game viewings.
- Rail/Coach tours, Self-drive
- Luxury "Stays at Distinction"

SOUTH AFRICA FARES FROM £372 RETURN

Dept 16 May - 22 June

☎ 01420-88140 or 0171-287 5535

OPEN 7 DAYS: Mon-Fri 9am to 7pm, Sat 9am to 5pm, Sun 9am to 5pm (London to 4pm)

12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BN
Or
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6DX
FAX: 01420-82133 or 0171-287 4522

ABTA 2855

All fares subject to availability. Restrictions may apply, ask for details. Air fares include pre-paid taxes, locally paid taxes may apply.

WHY WE'RE THE BEST

"TRAVELBAG PLUS" A unique range of added benefits to make your journey easier

ACCOMMODATION All the options, from budget to the most luxurious

TOUR CHOICE Fantastic tour and sightseeing options

LOWEST FARES Best choice – top-quality scheduled airlines

SPECIALIST CONSULTANTS Tailored itineraries to your exact wishes

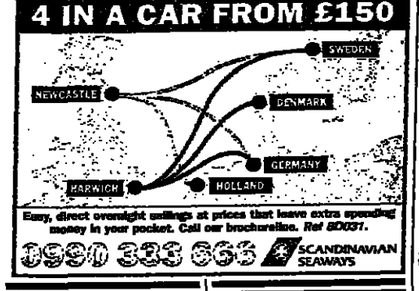
WE FIX IT ALL Car and campervan hire, coach tours and hotels

TRAVELBAG

OFFICIALLY APPOINTED QANTAS AGENT

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

EUROPE 4 IN A CAR FROM £150



Easy, direct overnight sailings at prices that leave extra spending money in your pocket. Call our brochureline. Ref BD037.

0990 333 663 SCANDINAVIAN SEAWAYS

KUALA LUMPUR from £389

Includes 4 nights hotel accommodation. 2 pax must travel together. Valid for outbound travel 15/04-15/06/1998. Call for details.

Return prices including pre-paid airport taxes from:

Perth	£449	Bombay	£348	Los Angeles	£265
Melbourne	£499	Johannesburg	£329	Dallas	£205
Auckland	£599	Nairobi	£279	Toronto	£197
Singapore	£375	New York	£177	Vancouver	£331
Bangkok	£359	Boston	£179	Mexico	£385
Bali	£399	Orlando	£250	Round The World	£739

Prices are subject to change/availability. THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL CHARGES ON CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS. Calls are recorded. The Thomas Cook Group Ltd. ABTA F1304, ATOL 0265

FLIGHTS DIRECT

OPEN OVER EASTER
Fri, Sun & Mon 10am-4pm, Sat 10am-5pm

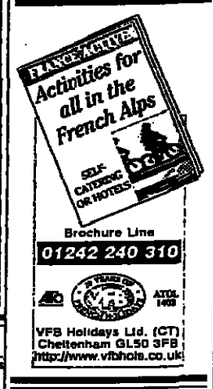
Thomas Cook

9am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat-Sun

0870 75 00 136

WE GO FURTHER TO FIND THE BEST FLIGHT

FRANCE



Brochure Line 01242 240 310

VFB Holidays Ltd. (CT) Cheltenham GL50 3FB http://www.vfbhols.co.uk

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Lakes & Mountains of Scandinavia

Dep	Country	Resort / Tour	Nts	Basis	Price
15 May	Denmark	Castle Stay/Fly-drive	7	HB/B&B	£999
7, 10, 14 May	Norway	Voss Lake resorts	7	HB	£831
17, 24 May	Iceland	Bryansnaedir + Daily Touring	7	FB	£797
31 May	Norway	Vik + Daily Touring (fjord resort)	7	FB	£799
15 Jun	Scandinavia	Coach + Coastal Voyage	10	HB/FB	£1,481
28 May	Norway	Fjord Coach Touring	10	HB	£984
14 May	Finland	Lappeenranta (Lake resort)	7	HB	£589
21 May	Sweden	Gold Country Resort	7	HB	£863

Scandinavian City Breaks from £239!

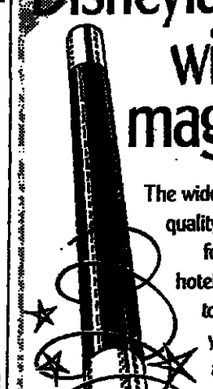
Call Scandinavian Travel Service Reservations and Brochures:

0171 559 6666

All bookings subject to availability & our 1998 Booking Conditions. ABTA V7545 ATOL 3564 AITO B&B - Bed & Breakfast HB - Half Board FB - Full Board

CITY BREAKS

Disneyland® Paris with the magic touch



The widest choice of affordable, quality hotels. Three nights for two offers at local hotels. Plus the convenience to travel when and how you please. You'll enjoy a more magical Disney break with Crestal

For your free brochure, call 0990 56 18 14 or see your travel agent

TD298

1998 The Year of Disney Classics

CRESTA

EASTERN EUROPE

POLAND

10 Day Holiday with Half Board £129

To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatra Mountains

CHECK-IN

FLIGHTWISE

ABTA 83000

FARO	£73	ORLANDO	£245
MALAGA	£77	VENICE	£129
ALICANTE	£77	CANADA	£215
LANZAROTE	£89	MALTA	£79
TENERIFE	£89	CYPRUS	£137
LAS PALMAS	£89	GREECE	£97
BALEARICS	£79	CARIBBEAN	£225

ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS BOOKING NOW FOR SUMMER '98 NOW

01476 560089

CHECK-IN

FLIGHT SEARCHERS

ABTA 93586 ATOL 3470

Spain	£69	USA	£169
Portugal	69	Canada	219
Cyprus	99	Caribbean	189
Canaries	99	India	299
Greece	109	S.Africa	299
Turkey	129	Far East	399
Israel	129	Australia	449

FLORIDA FLIGHT & HOLIDAY SPECIALISTS

01920 484007

BEST BARGAINS

Open Easter Bank Hols Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon Easter/Summer 98/Winter 98. Hols from £139 flts fr £69. Flt price list 50000 fares out now. Accom list Greece/Ibiza, Spain/Isles, Algarve, Canaries, Cyprus + many more. Disc kids, fam. FREE insur MC.

0181-767 3030

24-hour 7 days

ABROAD HOLS ATOL

Delta Vacations

OFFICIAL AIRLINE TOUR PROGRAMME

AMERICA

- DAILY FLIGHTS FROM LONDON, MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, LEEDS BRADFORD & NEWCASTLE

FOR YOUR FLIGHT & COMPLETE HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS CALL

LONDON 0171 731 3344

MANCHESTER 0161 273 7766

THE TRAVEL MARKET

NOW BOOKING SUMMER 98

USA	£199		
CANADA	199	FLORIDA SPECIALS	
AUSTRALIA	399	FLY DRIVE	
S.AFRICA	279	£199	
CYPRUS	129	FAMILY PACK	
GREECE	109	SUMMER '98	
CANARIES	129	£1099	
FAR EAST	319		
CARIBBEAN	249		
PORTUGAL	99		

0171 834 7722/33



JETLINE

Discounted fares to all destinations

SPAIN	£69	USA	£139
PORTUGAL	79	CARIBBEAN	249
CANARIES	99	S. AFRICA	299
ISRAEL	119	CANADA	239
GREECE	129	INDIA	299
CYPRUS	149	FAR EAST	319
SKI FLIGHTS	79	AUSTRALIA	399

FLORIDA SPECIALISTS

CALL NOW TO SAVE £££s!

0171 369 1111

Retail agents for ATOL holders

ABTA 72621 OPEN 7 DAYS

FLIGHT CENTRE

WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS

ACCESS VISA AMEX DISCOUNT DINERS

0181 669 8607

NEXUS TRAVEL

CARIBBEAN	£179	MOROCCO	£169
CANARIES	£85	POLAND	£179
FRANCE	£59	PORTUGAL	£79
GERMANY	£85	PRAGUE	£195
GOA	£219	SPAIN	£85
GREECE	£99	TURKEY	£139
ITALY	£99	USA	£179
MALTA	£189	VIENNA	£195

FLTS ARE TO AMALFICOE, & DATE OF RET

0117 927 7727/933 2555

FRANCE

BREAKS IN FRANCE & SPAIN



Luxury cruise-ferries, award-winning service and outstanding choice of great value Breaks - from beautiful Brittany and historic Normandy to fairytale Loire Valley and beyond. Plus stylish Santander in Northern Spain.

FROM £52 PER PERSON FOR 1 NIGHT'S B&B, INCL. FERRY RETURN WITH CAR

WITH THE CONVENIENCE OF YOUR CAR

Brittany Ferries Holidays

BROCHURES 0990 143 537 RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION 0990 360 360

CITY BREAKS

ST.PETERSBURG/KIEV. INTER-CHANGE Brochure on 0161 661 3612 ATOL 2429



Paris Amsterdam Brussels

from only £59 return

For details call: 0990 143219

eurolines

COACH & FERRY NETWORK

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

WONDER FULL EGYPT

5★HOTEL 1 WK fr £279

4★CRUISE 1 WK fr £299

0171 407 2111

MERLIN HOLIDAYS ABTA P6952

VILLAS With Pools

ALGARVE SPAIN CORFU

April & May

fr £235 pp of 4

7nts incl. flts & car

01992 557749

Sunday Booking Service 10am-4pm

01992 557849

'Something Special'

the Villa with Pool people

AFRICA

TAILORMADE SAFARIS

ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZAMBIA, KENYA, TANZANIA & S. AFRICA



Luxurious remote lodges. Walking, canoeing, riding and vehicle safaris with the very best guides. Superb wildlife. Adventure with comfort. Call us to create your ideal safari.

Tel:(01604) 628979 Fax: 639079

55 Palmerston Rd, Northampton, NN1 5EX

AFRICA EXCLUSIVE

AIRPORT PARKING

HEATHROW £4.95 per day (no min stay). Free parking after 14 days. Max charge £69.30. (Up to 50 days) Secure Parking Ltd 0181 813 8130.

BALEARICS

CALA D'OR Santanyi & Porto Petro, Majorca. Beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apts & htls. Open 7 days. Club Cala d'Or Holidays 01903 200207 (24 hrs) ABTA W4424X

PUERTO POLLENSA & Cala San Vicente, Majorca. Resort/countryside villas with private pools, apts & htls. Open 7 days. Club Pollensa Holidays 01903 230128 (24hrs) ABTA W4424X

MENORCA Arrocetes villas / farmhouses with private pools, apartments & hotels across the island. Open 7 days. Club Menorca Holidays on (01903) 234024 (24hrs) ABTA W4424X

SPRING BREAKS

RECOMMENDED SHORT BREAKS

Choose from hundreds of short break holiday opportunities throughout Britain. All entries have approved grading or accept inspection. Each entry is illustrated, with descriptions, full contact details and short break terms. Introduction by John Carter.

For details of a special offer for this and our other guides for readers of the Sunday Times, write to FHG Publications, ST Offer, FREEPOST SCO2623, Paisley, PA1 1BR.

Please mention the Sunday Times when replying.

UNATTACHED

FUN BANK HOLIDAY IN CAEN FRANCE

1st May to 4th May with other professional background singles from France, Holland, Germany & Belgium

Gentlemen early 30's to early 50's Ladies 29 to 49

CASCADE

Social Group for the UNATTACHED

01495 75 53 09

for brochure

Fax 00 44 1495 75 90 46

www.CASCADEunattached.com

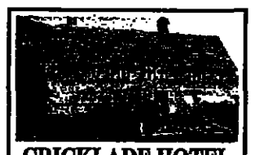


EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Porlock Harbour

Quiet comfortable hotel at water's edge of small picturesque harbour amidst Exmoor's magnificent scenery and spectacular coastline near the North Devon Border. Old unspoilt rural England - Superb food and attentive service. Recommended by the leading food and hotel guides.

SPECIAL OFFERS 01643 862753 THE ANCHOR HOTEL



CRICKLADE HOTEL

COTSWOLD MANOR HOUSE

Beautifully set in 30 acres. Fine restaurant & accom. Indoor pool + Health suite, Tennis, Snooker. OWN GOLF COURSE. From £52.00 pppn incl. D.B.B. & use of facilities. As above (Minimum 2 nights)

SORRY, NO CHILDREN UNDER 14.

FOR COLOUR BROCHURE TEL:01793 750751.

INGLEWOOD HEALTH HYDRO

choose health, choose life, choose Inglewood

Special offers and gift vouchers available Kintbury Berkshire RG17 9SW

Tel: 01488 682022/685111

SUFFOLK HERITAGE COAST

Wood Hall Hotel, Woodbridge



Come and enjoy the ambience of 16th Century Elizabethan Manor House set in 10 idyllic acres with roaring real log fires. Castle for dining, luxurious accommodation & much, much more. "Where Countryside meets the Sea"

2/3 nts Spring/Summer Breaks from £55pppn DB&B

SPECIAL OFFER: Stay 5 nts only pay for 4. £240pp (Sun-Thurs)

Phone for details & our Colour brochure

ETB Elgh Comm. AA

01394 411283

Springtime at Langdale

Stay at the Langdale Hotel & Country Club situated in the heart of the Lake District. From only £50 pp,pn, B&B. Luxury accommodation & FREE Country Club Membership.

Subject to availability of offer. (Excluding Bank & School Holidays)

LANGDALE

Freephone 0500 051197

Check our website for outstanding last minute offers: http://www.langdale.co.uk



The Commodore

Family owned and managed 3 Star hotel set in the pretty waterside village of Instow in North Devon, overlooking the Taw & Torridge Estuaries.

Spring Specials 2, 3 & 4 day breaks Inclusive of room, full English breakfast and table d'hote dinner

01271 860347

THE SPORT & CRAFT MANOR - 01837 53053

MANOR HOUSE & ASHBURY HOTELS, Nr Okehampton, West DEVON

COUNTRY HOUSE HOTELS - Superb Views, service, food, lounges + grounds. UNIQUE CRAFT CENTRE - Full Daily Tuition - Pottery, (Wheels & Models), Candles, Glass Engraving, Enamelling, Painting & Stencilling. HEATED Indoor Pools, Sauna, Squash, Badminton, Snooker, Archery, Laser Clays, Bowls, Tennis, - ALL INDOORS & FREE OUTDOOR Bowls, Tennis, Guided Moor Walks - ALL FREE Line Dancing, Skittles, Live Music, "Casino", Quiz, +++

FREE GOLF ON 2 X 18 HOLE LONG COURSES + PAR 3

LAST MINUTE VACANCIES APRIL, MAY & EARLY JUNE

END JUNE - MID JULY - 4 Nts £150/174 ; 3 Nts £137 - FULL BOARD

END JULY - AUGUST - FULL BOARD and FULL PROGRAMME

3 Nights £163/187; 5 Nights £259/298; 7 Nights £355/409

EXCEPTIONAL SPORT & CRAFT FAMILY PROGRAMME

SUPERB INDOOR BOWLS, BADMINTON, TENNIS, SQUASH

the Great Escape!



Let us help you to enjoy a relaxing break in character accommodation inclusive of entry to historic attractions/places of interest. Pre-bookable cycling, ballooning, horse-riding, golf and much more!

FREE BROCHURE 0181 847 4748

ASSISTANCE/RESERVATIONS 0181 232 9788

SUNVIL

email:info@sunviluk.itsnet.co.uk

Hôtel La Place

AA ★★★★ RAC • St. Brelade • JERSEY



SPRING BREAKS APRIL MAY

FLIGHTS & CAR HIRE INCLUDED from

2nts £209 extra nts £50 pp

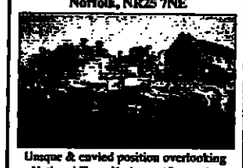
Colour brochure, Reservations

Tel: 01534 44261

THE BLAKENEY HOTEL

AA★★★ Blakeney RAC★★★

Norfolk, NR25 7NE



Unique & envied position overlooking National Trust Harbour. 60 en-suite bedrooms, ltd indoor pool, spa bath, saunas, gym & billiard/games rooms. Relax, walk, sail, play golf, explore the Norfolk villages, countryside & coast.

*Midweek & Weekend Breaks

*Special Midweek rates for Senior Citizens

*4, 5 & 7 day holidays

BROCHURE - Tel 01263 740797

BOTLEY PARK HOTEL

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

AA★★★★★ RAC

AA Rosette

ETB Highly Commended

Set in beautiful Hampshire, nr New Forest, Winchester & Southampton

MAY BANK HOLIDAY BREAK-A-WAYS

£38 B&B or £55 DB&B pppnt - min 2nts

Special rates for children

FREE tickets to a local attraction for families

Extensive Leisure Club

18 Hole Golf Course

01489 780888

Winchester Rd, Botley, Hampshire SO3 2UA

Cotswold Retreat



AA 3 Red Star & 3 Red Rosettes

★★★ RAC Blue Ribbon

Why not re-charge your batteries with our special rates for the Spring at our beautifully restored Wool Merchant House now one of the Cotswold finest luxury hotels. A short drive from the famous Warwickshire Arboretum. With Friendly Attentive service, Superb Cuisine.

THE CLOSE HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Long Street, Tetbury, Glos. GL8 8JQ

Tel: 01666 502272

Fax: 01666 504401

BUTTERFLY HOTELS

AA/RAC★★★ ETB 4 Crowns.

Explore Enchanting East Anglia

Choose From

Bury St Edmunds

For Rural Suffolk

Colchester

For the East coast and Constable country

Kings Lynn

For nature reserves and Sandringham

Peterborough

A great cathedral city

Special Easter Rates from:

Good Friday to Saturday 18th April.

-First night: £45.00 Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

-Extra nights: £35.00 Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

(All rates are per person, per night, sharing a bedroom).

For further information and Brochure Telephone 01284 705800.

Kings Lynn, Bury St Edmunds, Colchester, Peterborough.

ESCAPE to the Peace & Tranquillity



Elegant award winning Country Town House with 15 very individual bedrooms in unchanging Chipping Campden

AA 3 Red Stars & Rosettes.

RAC Blue Ribbon.

Quiet efficient service you thought had disappeared forever.

Cotswold House Hotel

Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6AN.

01386 840330

The Cottage Hotel

Hope Cove South Devon TQ7 3HJ



Enjoy Salcombe & South Devon.

24 SUCCESSFUL YEARS.

Visit The Cottage & see why 75% of our guests return. Enjoy picturesque views of the coast from your room.

SPECIAL BREAKS from £38.50 pppn inc. D&B, ensuite room, sea view & VAT

01548 561555

EXMOOR



The Exmoor White Horse Inn

Exford, Somerset • (01643) 831229

A beautiful 16th Century Inn with log fires, set beside a trickling stream, in one of Exmoor's most beautiful villages. There are days of exploring on Exmoor or along the breathtaking sea coast nearby. Experience the moors on horseback.

3 & 5 NIGHT BREAKS (with Special Days Free Offer)

FREEPHONE 0800 0561161

The Most Beautiful Village in the Cotswolds



AA★★★ & 3 Red Rosettes

Enjoy the atmosphere and ambience of this beautiful part 17th Century luxury hotel situated in a breathtaking position and sample the finest cuisine prepared by our award-winning team.

SPRING BREAKS AVAILABLE

Washbourne Court Hotel

Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire, GL54 2HS

Tel: 01451 822143

EXMOOR



Whitechapel Manor

South Molton, N.Devon, EX36 3EG

AA 2 Red Stars 3 Rosettes

Egon Ronay 76% Which? Hotel Guide

Historic 16th Century Manor House, listed grade 1 with beautiful terraced gardens. Ideally situated to explore Exmoor and the picturesque Devon countryside. RHS Rosemoor nearby.

SPRING BREAKS now available.

01769 573377

NORTHCOTE MANOR

country house hotel

Spring Breaks



A Jacobean Manor, set in woodlands on a site once occupied by monks. Our restaurant features organic meats and home-grown seasonal produce.

Close to Exmoor, Dartmoor and RHS Rosemoor Garden.

Barrington, Nr Umberleigh, North Devon

01769 560 501



ALLT YR YNYS

Country House Hotel & Restaurant

WELSH BORDERS

AA★★★ RAC★★★

WTB 4 Crowns Highly Commended

Elegant 16th Century hotel in beautiful South Herefordshire. Easily accessible. Award winning restaurant. Indoor heated pool, sauna and Jacuzzi. Private clay shooting and river fishing. Golf, walks, riding, stunning scenery. Perfect for that relaxing, get away break.

Tel:01873 890307

Fax:01873 890539

LOSTWITHIEL Hotel

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Tel: 01208 873550



This superb Golf & Leisure Hotel is set above the banks of the River Fowey. The perfect base for discovering the West Country. Enjoy every comfort including delicious food, golf, swimming, tennis, gym and many other local attractions.

2 NIGHTS FROM £94 PP DINNER, B&B

ESCAPE to the Peace & Tranquillity

Elegant award winning Country Town House with 15 very individual bedrooms in unchanging Chipping Campden

AA 3 Red Stars & Rosettes.

RAC Blue Ribbon.

Quiet efficient service you thought had disappeared forever.

Cotswold House Hotel

Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6AN.

01386 840330

SPRING & SUMMER

At Careys Manor Hotel In the beautiful New Forest



MIDWEEK & WEEKEND BREAKS

SUPERB INDOOR POOL COMPLEX

Stylish Bedrooms overlooking colourful Gardens. The Restaurant is renowned for good food and friendly service.

All bookings subject to terms & conditions

01590 623551

BROCKENHURST HAMPSHIRE

AA ★★★ RAC • Johansens

Egon Ronay Highly Commended

Bath in Spring

Romance & Nostalgia from an Age Past

Imagine sipping champers in an old fashioned, roll-topped bath, mesmerised by your own blazing fire, then retiring to you antique four poster. Dine by candle and flickering firelight in your own room or in our charming inglenook restaurant. Superb food and wines. Charming 15C farmhouse hotel in tranquil beauty spot 9m Bath, 1½ miles M4. Indoor heated pool opening onto sun terrace. Saunas & solarium. 6 acre grounds with fishing lake, 9 hole pitch & putt golf & croquet.

Midweek/Weekend fr £51pppn DBB (Min 2 Nts)

Book now for Easter

HINTON GRANGE

01179 372 916

SALCOMBE



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COVE IN ENGLAND

Luxury hotel fronting it's own beautiful sandy bay entirely surrounded by National Trust Coast.

AWARD WINNING CUISINE

Beautiful ground level bedrooms all opening onto gardens

88°WARM INDOOR POOL

A children's sand country lovers' Paradise

RAC ★★★ AA 2 Rosettes for Cuisine Good Hotel Guide, Egon Ronay

SOAR MILL COVE HOTEL

SALCOMBE, DEVON TQ7 3DS

Tel: 01548 561566

Oakley Court WINDSOR

★★★★Country House Hotel

On the River Thames. Deluxe rooms & suites. Award winning food. Brand new Leisure Club with Pool, Gym, Tennis and Boats



Special Weekend Rates available up to and including the Easter weekend - from £45pp

Only 10 mins from Legoland and 5 mins from Windsor's new shopping parade

TEL: 01753 609988

Stay in Luxury at....



George Washington Hotel

Close to Northumberland Coast

Call FREE on 0800 0182626

Telford Hotel Golf & Country Club

Heart of Shropshire

Call FREE on 0500 820816

Both hotels boast superb leisure facilities, including indoor heated pool, gym, sauna and beauty salon. Plus special rates for Sunday Times readers for Green Fees on both hotels 18 hole golf courses

Breaks from £29.50 pppn DB&B (min 2 nights & 1 golf round)

County Hotels

Collauen Manor Hotel

DARTMOOR



Historic 15th C Manor House

Relax in a tranquil atmosphere of comfort and style.

3½ acres of glorious grounds and magnificent views.

Spacious en-suite rooms, 4 poster.

Fresh home cooked cuisine. Vegetarian specialities.

Tel: 01837 861522

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

1,309,000 Sunday Times readers have taken a weekend break in a UK hotel in the last 12 months. 392,000 readers of The Times prefer taking their holidays in Britain than abroad.

In order to reach your customers effectively, advertise in the next Hotel Breaks feature May 3rd in the Sunday Times, repeated May 9th in The Times

For more information, speak to The Travel Team on

0171 481 1989

هذا من الأصل

AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw

TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



Dolphin discoveries

THERE IS a good chance of seeing the common, bottlenose and striped dolphins in their natural habitat during the three-night Dolphin Watch holiday off Gibraltar that is being offered by Discover the World (01737 218801).

This is definitely not a staged performance. If you are lucky, you may be able to see schools of up to 100 common dolphins performing in the wild.

The price of £359 (£416 from May to September) includes flights, B&B hotel accommodation and two mornings' excursions on a 30-foot catamaran.



Exhilarating sight of bottlenose dolphins leaping out of the sea

Wedding days

WHY NOT tie the knot in a really *impressive, not to say over-the-top,* way and get married in Las Vegas? Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) will take care of the red tape for £235-£575 depending on the style of your nuptials.

Among the many extravagant options on offer are: Weddings with Elvis, where a look-alike will rock you down the aisle; a Wedding on Wheels where the minister will perform the ceremony in the (borrowed) limousine, and a Drive-in Wedding where you pull up the hatch, ring the heart-shaped bell and hand over your credit card.

A week's Las Vegas holiday with Virgin, which includes flights to Los Angeles, car hire and four-star room-only hotel accommodation, costs £519.

SHOP TILL you drop during a short break in Hong Kong. Kuoni (01306 740500) has three-night breaks in May at hotels within reach of acres of the huge shopping malls, from £375-£415. Make sure you also visit: the Jade Market near Nathan Road (real jade makes your tongue go numb, apparently); Stanley Market, a No 6 bus ride from Hong Kong Island's waterfront, for leisure wear and shoes; The Lanes for designer label copies, and factory outlets for originals at bargain prices. However, do remember that our duty-free allowance is only £145 — and that British Customs knows exactly when the flights from Hong Kong arrive back here.

Mud massage

CLINGFILM yourself in seaweed, soak in sulphur springs or wallow in the mud on a spa break; specialist Erna Low (0171-584 2841) offers a wide selection.

A four-day thalassotherapy break at Thalazur near Antibes includes three days of treatments (seaweed packs, sea-water massage) and three nights' half-board hotel accommodation as well as flights, for £559.

The Grand Hotel Trieste and Victoria in Abano, Italy, specialises in treatments using mud renowned since ancient times for its therapeutic and regenerating effects. The price of £645 covers flights, three nights' accommodation with full board, medical consultation, two sessions of mud application and ozone thermal bath, plus full body massage.

If at any time you feel a sudden need to escape, Venice is only 90 minutes away.

French larder

PLUNDER the best market in northern France that spills all over and around Dieppe's Grande Rue. With its hinterland known as the larder of Paris, the Grande Rue is a monument to gluttony with stalls of Normandy cheeses, the pungent local Neufchâtel, Pont L'Evêque and Camembert, tripe, terrines, andouillettes and, near the harbour, marble slabs of crab, whelks, cockles, soles and seabass.

Choose from the 30 ice-creams or 17 teas at the Duchesse de Berry pâtisserie, and join the ghosts of Oscar Wilde and Impressionist painters at the Café des Tribunaux over a coffee break. There is even a Mammouth supermarket in Dieppe, but who needs it?

P&O European Ferry Holidays (01992 456049) offers four nights for the price of three from May to September. Prices start at £144 per person based on two travelling on the four-hour Newhaven-Dieppe ferry crossing: £126 per person based on four in a car. These prices include B&B at the Hotel Churchill; add £22 for travel on the faster Lynx catamaran, a two-hour 15-minute crossing.



Like Nicolas Cage and Sarah Jessica Parker in *Honeymoon in Vegas*, you can rock down the aisle with Elvis lookalikes in attendance, organised by Virgin Holidays

It's so surreal



HERE IS the chance to decide whether you love him or loathe him: more than 200 works of former wallpaper designer turned surrealist painter Magritte (1898-1967) are on view at his centenary exhibition in Brussels until June 28. Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) will organise tickets and offer advice on shopping and eating in the Belgian capital. Two-night Brussels breaks cost from £228-£274 which includes travel by Eurostar or by air, B&B in a four-star hotel, car transfer and entrance fees.

PLUNGE into the Red Sea off Aqaba in Jordan on a mini-diving safari with Regal Holidays (01353 778096). For £499 during May, you get flights, five nights' hotel B&B and three days' diving (six dives) with the Royal Diving Centre. It is dangerous to dive on the day before you fly, so head off to Wadi Rum or Petra instead.

Time to tee off

SWING in France on a spring golf break with BDH Golf (0181-644 1225) which has a selection of packages in Brittany. These include Golf de l'Odet near Bénodet staying in cottages overlooking the course. Prices in early May are £70 per person for each of six people for a week's self-catering, £100 for each of four. A five-day golf pass to play l'Odet and another eight local courses costs £84 each. You could also stay two nights at the family-run Auberge Armor Vilaine near the championship course of St Laurent. B&B and dinner are included in the price of £105 per person; a three-day golf pass for playing on nine courses is £50.50; all prices include Le Shuttle fare for car and passengers.

● *Travel articles in* The Times *since last January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on* http://www.the-times.co.uk

Lost City man 'finds' Atlantis

Paradise Island is to house a "jungle baroque" resort for the super-rich, says **Mary Gold**

Historians may be divided over the site of the mythical kingdom of Atlantis. They may even dispute whether it existed at all.

But maverick South African businessman Sol Kerzner — who built a "Lost City" resort near Johannesburg — has no doubts — it is just off Paradise Island in the Bahamas, and conveniently near a great swathe of land which he happens to own.

So enamoured is Mr Kerzner of Atlantis that he recreated it once in 1994, complete with three-million-gallon aquarium and 13,000 fish. And now he is doing it again, on an even larger scale. "Atlantis was just off the coast here," he said. "The governor-general's wife came for tea one day and she told me so."

Wherever Atlantis was — Plato described it "plunging into the sea" four centuries before Christ — its namesake has made huge profits for Mr Kerzner's company, Sun International. Fired by this success, he is now building the £280-million Royal Towers — in reality Atlantis II, across the lagoon from Atlantis I.

The architecture, a cross between New York's Grand Central Station and St Paul's, could be described as jungle baroque. At the heart of it is a 70ft atrium, decorated with enormous gold scallop shells, beneath which the ground floor will be submerged under eight million gallons of water to house sharks, barracuda and manta rays.

There will even be "ruins of Atlantis", an underground village viewed through glass and inhabited only by eels and piranhas.

The most eye-catching feature, especially for younger guests, is outside — a 60ft-high replica of a Mayan temple with five water slides, including the almost-vertical kamikaze slide which propels swimmers into a clear tunnel running through a shark-filled lagoon. There will also be waterfalls, fountains and a seven-acre snorkelling lagoon stocked with tropical fish.

The architect is Jim Bucher, an American who worked on Canary Wharf in London. When asked why the design included a Mayan temple he said: "The good thing about Atlantis is that you can take liberties with it."

His pride and joy is the Imperial Suite, suspended between two towers and designed with royalty and the super-rich in mind.

Steve Kaiser, the marine adviser, dismissed suggestions that a man-made lagoon was not the ideal place for so many fish. "Atlantis is a great place for them. The sharks had six babies last year, that's how happy they are."

Mr Kerzner says he is not trying to compete with Disney. "There won't be any queueing here," he says. But he won't be swimming in any of the pools, shark-infested or otherwise. "I can swim but I don't," he says. "There just isn't time".

● *Royal Towers will open on December 22. Book from July through British Airways Holidays (01293 723161) or Virgin Holidays (01293 617181). Eight nights at Atlantis with BA Holidays, including flights and room-only accommodation, cost from £869 per person.*

Rival operators' battle means more perks for passengers, reports **Tom Chesshyre**

High fliers up the stakes



More legroom aboard aircraft, just like the old days, is Thomson's latest offer

BRITAIN'S "big two" tour operators — Thomson and Airtours — are battling to attract customers by offering a greater choice of in-flight service as well as loyalty schemes. The latest move came this week when Thomson, Britain's largest operator, announced a new seating system, to be introduced in summer 1999, allowing passengers to opt for up to 50 per cent more legroom on long-haul flights.

There will be three different classes of seats — "360 Premium", "360 Extra" and the standard "360". The "360 Premium" seats, which cost £120 more per return flight than standard seats, will be wider, with 50 per cent more legroom, priority boarding, complimentary drinks and a free travel pack (including an inflatable neck pillow, toothbrush and eye mask).

Thomson recently announced that it will offer holiday discounts of ten per cent and free upgrades to initial shareholders, who will become members of the Founders' Club when the company is floated on the stock exchange next month.

Meanwhile, the second biggest operator, Airtours, has launched "Airtours Freedom", a customer-loyalty programme. It offers a free discount card that can be used at 25,000 retail and holiday outlets, as well as a low-cost credit card.

SPECIAL OFFER

from £699

INDIAN OCEAN CRUISE

A 7 nt Maldives cruise inc. all meals

THE ISLAND EXPLORER: A delightful, stylish, medium class ship, completely renovated in 1996. Restaurant, 2 bars, 2 lounges, swimming pool.

CABINS: 74 airconditioned attractively furnished cabins with 2 beds, private shower/wc. Price is based on inside deluxe: A or B deck (upgrades available).

Itinerary: designed to allow visitors a glimpse into the life of the 'real' Maldives: with islands rarely seen by overseas visitors, both inhabited and uninhabited.

14 nts (7 nts cruise FB/7 nts resort RB): from £899

Departure date:	Price:	Departure date:	Price:
18 May '98	£699	06 Jul	£799
25 May	£769	13,20 Jul	£829
01 Jun	£699	10,24 Aug	£969
08,15 Jun	£719	07,21 Sep	£969
29 Jun	£699	05,19 Oct	£969

Non-stop flights on DC-10. No supplement for the solo traveller all sailings except Aug (inside deluxe cabins only).

The price includes: Return flights Gatwick/Maldives. UK Govt dept tax of £20. 7 nt cruise incl all meals and visits/excursions. Transfers. Prices per person sharing twin cabin. Not included: Local dept tax: approx $10. Optional insurance: £33 (7 nts); £56 (14 nts). Booking conditions apply.

To book, telephone: (open daily inc Sat/Sun)

☎ 01306 744300

Fax: 01306 744334

ABTA V258X

ATOL 152

The Travel Collection, Deepdene House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ.

Lisbon from £141 return (inclusive of £17 taxes)

The Lowest Scheduled Fare from Heathrow

Bookings by 18 April 1998 and must include a Saturday night stay. Fare is subject to availability and travel periods. For reservations telephone TAP Air Portugal on 0171-828 0262 or contact your travel agent.

TAP AIR PORTUGAL carrier for EXPO'98 LISBON

All taxes may vary but are correct at time of going to press.

FREE CAYMAN ISLANDS PRIVILEGE CARD

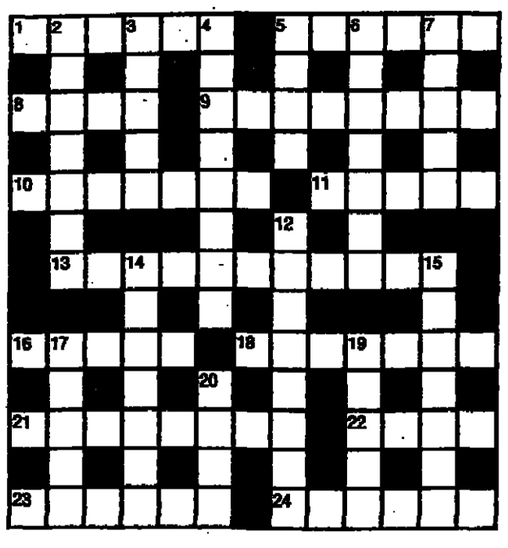
Save up to 25% with the New Cayman Islands Privilege Card.

When you book a holiday (7 nights or more) to the Cayman Islands you will receive our unique Privilege Card, which entitles you to savings of up to 25% at many of the islands' restaurants, car hire companies, watersports operators and attractions.

Available 16/04-15/12/1998. From Selected Tour Operators FOR INFORMATION, BROCHURES & TOUR OPERATORS CALL

0171-491 7771

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1377

ACROSS

1 Six feet: get to understand (6)
5 Adjust, alter (6)
8 (Great) size; majority (of) (4)
9 Flood rescue vessel (5,3)
10 Wander off point (7)
11 Lusty, goat-like god (5)
13 One whose children have left home (5-6)
16 A drink; fat (5)
18 Trap (to fall into) (7)
21 Unemotional type (4,4)
22 Fruit: take out (girl) (4)
23 Vigour (6)
24 Relaxation, rest (6)

DOWN

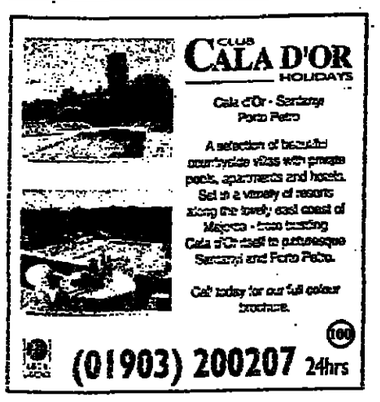
2 Foul-mouthed (7)
3 Long-distance walker (5)
4 (See in) imagination (5,3)
5 Defensive water (4)
6 Aloof; far away (7)
7 A raid (5)
12 Make sense of (code) (8)
14 Rob, seize (7)
15 Tells; makes connection (7)
17 Plant spine (5)
19 Bored, sated (3,2)
20 Mercy (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1376

ACROSS:
7 Affectionate 9 Boudoir 10 Salvo 11 Rail
12 Beholden 15 Svengali 17 Sufi 19 Wheel 21 Voyager
22 Twist one's arm

DOWN:
1 Effusive 2 Aesop 3 Starve 4 Tolstoy 5 Earl
6 Reconnoitre 8 Aberystwyth 13 Drudgery 14 Agility
16 Living 18 Gypsy 20 Emit

BROCHURE SERVICE



CLUB CALA D'OR HOLIDAYS

Cala d'Or - Sardinia
Porto Petro

A selection of beautiful countryside villas with private pools, apartments and hotels. Set in a variety of resorts along the lovely east coast of Majorca - from bustling Cala d'Or itself to picturesque Sercanyi and Porto Petro.

Call today for our full colour brochure.

(01903) 200207 24hrs

100



CITALIA's ITALY

Travel by air, rail or road
Romantic Sorrento
Fascinating Sicily
Unspoilt Sardinia
Enchanting Tuscany
Historic Cities

and much more in our 1998 Main and Citybreaks Brochures.

Brochureline: Ref: STBP5

01235 824354

Citalia

The Leading Italian Specialists
ABTA V4888 ATOL1181 IATA 96810

101



Brussels and the Belgian Ardennes.
Around the corner, another world.

There's nowhere quite like fascinating, cosmopolitan Brussels - and it's your gateway to the forests and castles of the Belgian Ardennes. All just hours from your door.

Belgian Tourism Office

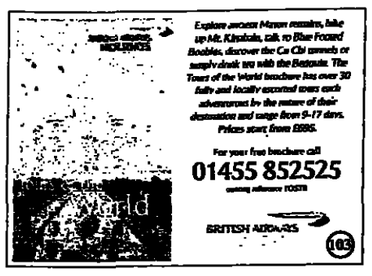
Tel: 07000-ARDENNE (27 33 66)*

www.belgium-tourism.net

Call for your free brochures today.

*Lo call charge, weekdays 9 am to 6 pm. 9 pence/min cheap rate & weekend

102



Explore ancient Mayan remains, hike up Mt. Kinabalu, talk to Blue Footed Boobies, discover the Ca Chi tunnels or simply drink tea with the Batizais. The Tours of the World brochure has over 30 fully and locally escorted tours each adventurous by the nature of their destination and range from 9-17 days. Prices start from £695.

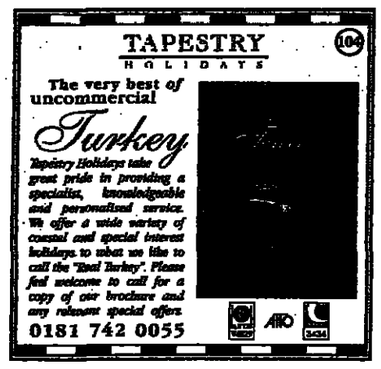
For your free brochure call

01455 852525

quoting reference TOTB

BRITISH AIRWAYS

103



TAPESTRY HOLIDAYS

104

The very best of uncommercial Turkey

Tapestry Holidays take great pride in providing a specialist, knowledgeable and personalised service. We offer a wide variety of coastal and special interest holidays to what we like to call the "Real Turkey". Please feel welcome to call for a copy of our brochure and any relevant special offers.

0181 742 0055

ATOL 3434



The Saville Turkish Collection

105

Stay in palaces of sultans. Make your home in an undiscovered coastal village, or a villa accessible only by boat. Sunbathe by your own private swimming pool. Soar over extraordinary Cappadocia in a hot air balloon. Or bask on the deck of a classical schooner/private motor yacht.

SAVILLE ROW TOURS & TRAVEL LTD

0171 625 3001



106

Oceanfront Rentals Company is the undisputed leader in golf and beach vacation packages on Hilton Head Island.

Convenient accommodations are available ranging from 1-8 bedroom homes and villas.

Experience our luxurious, oceanfront homes complete with private pools and jacuzzis.

Your dream vacation is only a phone call away... Call 01328 829551 or request your brochure today.

Member of The Independent Traveller.



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

With nearly a decade's experience operating Down Under, Bridge the World offer you their finest Australia/New Zealand brochure yet.

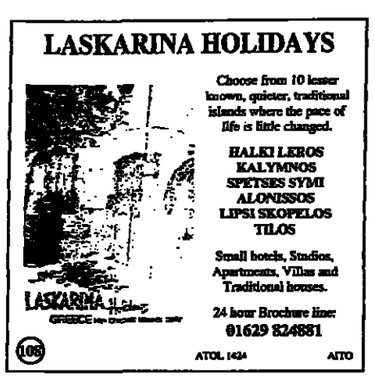
- Quality tailor-made holidays on the world's top airlines.
- The best deals on hotels, tours, car & campervan hire throughout Australia.
- Introduction by Alan Whicker.

RESERVATIONS: 0171 734 7447

BROCHURE HOTLINE (24hrs): 01344 816610

BRIDGE THE WORLD

107 ABTA V6976/F1107 IATA ATOL 3096



LASKARINA HOLIDAYS

Choose from 10 lesser known, quieter, traditional islands where the pace of life is little changed.

HALKI LEROS
KALYMNOS
SPETSES SYMI
ALONISSOS
LIPSI SKOPELOS
TILOS

Small hotels, Studios, Apartments, Villas and Traditional houses.

24 hour Brochure line: 01629 824881

LASKARINA GREECE

108

ATOL 1424 AITO

CORSICA

109

Experience the superb beaches, historic towns and glorious scenery of the 'fragrant isle' with award-winning VFB Holidays.

Choose from hand-picked apartments and character hotels located in all the loveliest areas of the Island.

ATOL 1403

(01242) 240 310

http://www.vfbhols.co.uk



A delightful way to discover the real France.

110

Discovery tours for lovers of France-its cuisine, landscapes & culture.

From Normandy to Nimes; from gardens to gastronomy; from five nights to nine.

From VFB, rather special escorted tours where you leave the car at home and join a small group of like-minded people in discovering the real France.

The voyage of discovery starts with the VFB Classic Interludes Brochure.

(01242) 240 310

VFB Holidays Limited.

ATOL 1403



France

Exclusive tailor-made holidays to the best hotels

- Top châteaux hotels
- Other excellent hotels
- Ferry or Shuttle with own car
- Fly-drive

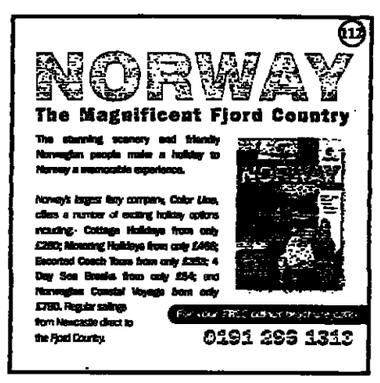
More than an ordinary holiday!

Unicorn Holidays

01582 83 4400

ATOL 2421 ABTA V1074 AITO

111



NORWAY

The Magnificent Fjord Country

112

The stunning scenery and friendly Norwegian people make a holiday to Norway a memorable experience.

Norway's largest ferry company, Color Line, offers a number of exciting holiday options including: Cottage Holidays from only £280; Motoring Holidays from only £466; Escorted Coach Tours from only £535; 4 Day Sea Breaks from only £54; and Norwegian Coastal Voyage from only £780. Regular sailings from Newcastle direct to the Fjord Country.

0191 293 1313



ICELAND

from £250

113

The Myth Exploded!

The 92 page ARCTIC EXPERIENCE brochure contains all you need for a truly memorable holiday. Travel with the specialists.

24 hour brochure line:

01737 218801

www.arctic-discover.co.uk



FRENCH LIFE

114

Featuring the whole of FRANCE... You choose the location, mode of travel, accommodation, duration & budget then simply leave the rest to us!

VILLAS - COTTAGES - APARTMENTS
SHORT BREAKS & HOTELS - CAMPING
SELF DRIVE . EUROSTAR
FLYDRIVE. AIR

For the Best Of France
Call Brochureline NOW
0113 2850 280 Quoting Ref: ST 1503
ATOL ABTA V6190



Experience America with a huge choice of holiday ideas throughout North America and Canada. If you want a truly independent holiday order your FREE copy NOW!!

115

01772 727 757

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun 10-4pm

Retail Agents for ATOL Holders

ABTA C8257



116

Imagine snorkelling in the beauty of the Barrier Reef.

Or watching the colours of Ayres Rock at sunset

The country you've let your mind wander to is only a day away. Fill in the reader reply coupon for your free 1998 Travellers Guide

The sooner you go, the longer the memories



117

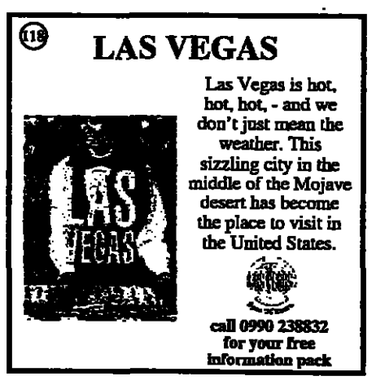
Discover the real Greece and Turkey.

From £252 pp 1 wk Discover the real Greece and Turkey with Sapphire. Choose from small, owner-run hotels and apartments in unspoilt locations.

Freephone 0800 652 6520

http://www.sapphireholidays.co.uk

ABTA V4087 ATOL 987

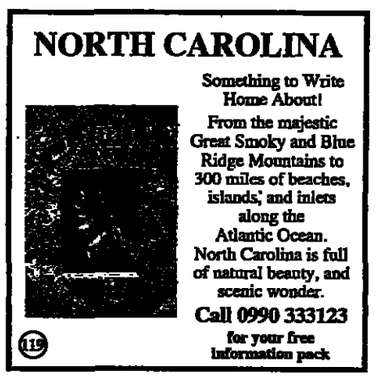


LAS VEGAS

118

Las Vegas is hot, hot, hot, - and we don't just mean the weather. This sizzling city in the middle of the Mojave desert has become the place to visit in the United States.

call 0990 238832 for your free information pack



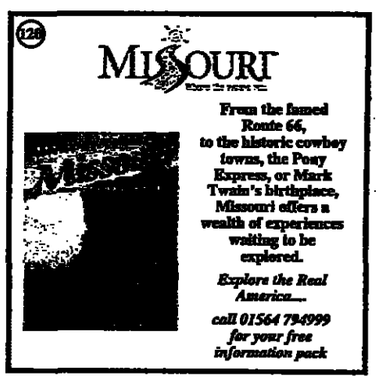
NORTH CAROLINA

119

Something to Write Home About!

From the majestic Great Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains to 300 miles of beaches, islands, and inlets along the Atlantic Ocean. North Carolina is full of natural beauty, and scenic wonder.

Call 0990 333123 for your free information pack



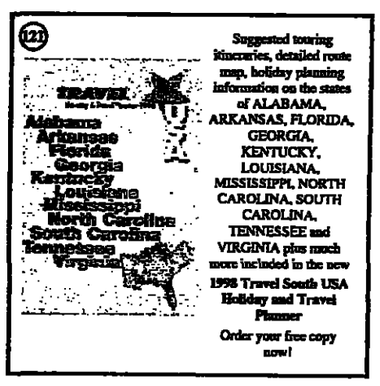
MISSOURI

120

From the famed Route 66, to the historic cowboy towns, the Pony Express, or Mark Twain's birthplace, Missouri offers a wealth of experiences waiting to be explored.

Explore the Real America....

call 01564 794999 for your free information pack



121

Suggested touring itineraries, detailed route map, holiday planning information on the states of ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE and VIRGINIA plus much more included in the new 1998 Travel South USA Holiday and Travel Planner

Order your free copy now!

SOUTH WEST LINCOLNSHIRE

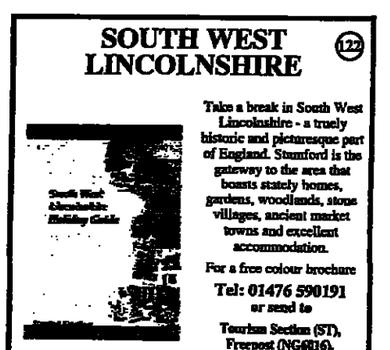
122

Take a break in South West Lincolnshire - a truely historic and picturesque part of England. Stamford is the gateway to the area that boasts stately homes, gardens, woodlands, stone villages, ancient market towns and excellent accommodation.

For a free colour brochure

Tel: 01476 590191 or send to

Tourism Section (ST), Freepost (NG6816), Grantham, Lincs. NG31 7BR.



123

Sunsail Beach Club Holidays

11 locations in Greece and Turkey. Free dinghy sailing, yachting,windsurfing and tennis. Great food and accommodation, brilliant kids' clubs, waterskiing plus lots more.

Call (01705) 222 222.



BRIGHTON AND HOVE

City breaks by the sea. Romance, heritage, arts and culture. Shopping, 400 restaurants and great nightlife. For free accommodation brochure phone:-

0345 573512 (local Rate)

And for free brochure and details of the Brighton Festival from May 2-24

Phone:-01273 292961

124



OKAVANGO TOURS & SAFARIS

125

Simply the best for tailored holidays to:

Botswana, Zambia and Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tanzania and Madagascar

Tel: 0181 343 3283 Fax: 0181 343 3287

See our website: http://www.okavango.com

Gadd House, Arcadia Avenue, London N3 2JU.



126

SPRING IN ORKNEY

Visit Orkney this Spring and sample the delights of these 70 islands at their best.

You'll find a wide choice of accommodation, wonderful food and an abundance of wildlife in some of the most beautiful landscapes in Europe.

Above all you'll find a warm Orcadian welcome.

Call 01856 872856 for a copy of our 1998 brochure.



FUTUROSCOPE

POITIERS - FRANCE

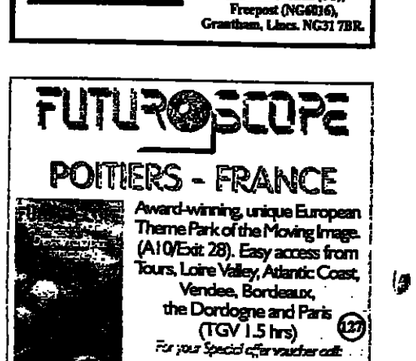
Award-winning, unique European Theme Park of the Moving Image. (A10/Exit 28). Easy access from Tours, Loire Valley, Atlantic Coast, Vendee, Bordeaux, the Dordogne and Paris (TGV 1.5 hrs)

127

For your Special offer voucher call:

0990 673 649

Spectacular fun for the whole family.





Elegant Resorts

LUXURY HOLIDAYS EUROPE

Our 146 page collection of the very best luxury resorts and romantic hideaway hotels in Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Cyprus, Crete, Morocco and Ireland with 16 pages of city breaks including Vienna and Prague.

01244 897 777

ABTA V1712 ATOL 2885

128



PREMIER CITIES

Choose the short break you deserve from our fabulous new collection of over 70 of the world's most exciting cities.

Call 01235 824324 24hrs or see your local travel agent or complete readers' reply panel.

129



PREMIER Britain

Turn your dream of a special weekend away into reality with over 500 of Britain's loveliest hotels and cottages in one handy guide.

Call 01235 824324 24hrs or see your local travel agent or complete readers' reply panel.

130

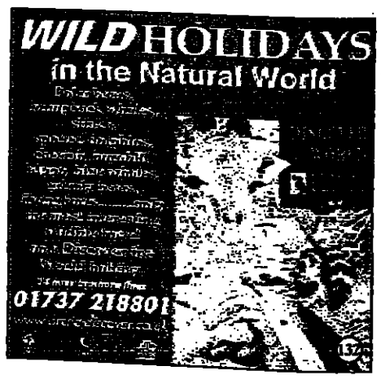


SKI 98/99

Are you going to let next winter's best deals slip through your fingers? Book now and save up to £200 per couple.

Call 01235 824324 24hrs or see your local travel agent or complete readers' reply panel.

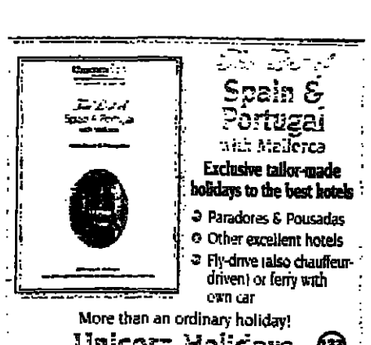
131



WILD HOLIDAYS in the Natural World

01737 218801

132



Spain & Portugal with Mallorca

Exclusive tailor-made holidays to the best hotels

- Paradores & Pousadas
- Other excellent hotels
- Fly-drive (also chauffeur-driven) or ferry with own car

More than an ordinary holiday!

Unicorn Holidays

01582 83 4400

ATOL 2421 ABTA V1074 AITO

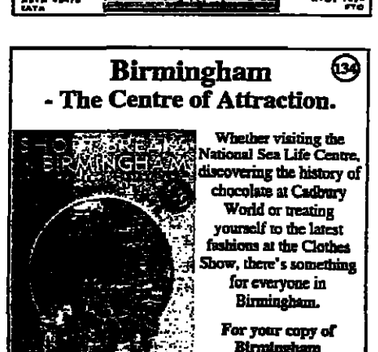
133

Birmingham - The Centre of Attraction.

134

Whether visiting the National Sea Life Centre, discovering the history of chocolate at Cadbury World or treating yourself to the latest fashions at the Clothes Show, there's something for everyone in Birmingham.

For your copy of Birmingham Short Breaks 1998 call 01703 665041



FORTE

135

FOR LEISURE BREAKS AT THEIR BEST.

LONDON - A choice of 5 star luxury to great value in the very heart of the capital - from £35

POSTHOUSE - Under 16s 'Stay & Eat Free' when sharing with 1 or 2 adults

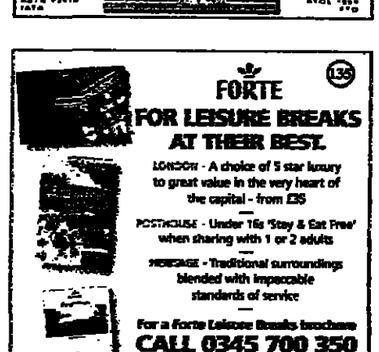
HERITAGE - Traditional surroundings blended with impeccable standards of service

For a Forte Leisure Breaks brochure

CALL 0345 700 350

Quote reference: ALB4

MERIDIEN | Heritage | Posthouse | SIGNATURE



RENT SOME OF THE FINEST PRIVATELY OWNED HOLIDAY HOMES IN EUROPE AND THE USA

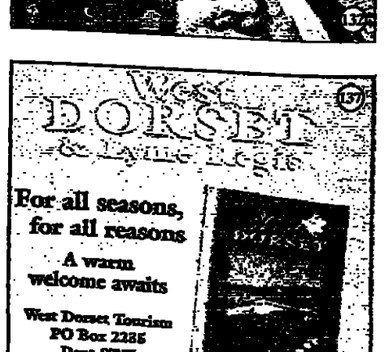
Villas with a pool Luxury Apartments Country Clubs

136

Algarve • Costa Del Sol • Tenerife • South Carolina • Florida

Leisure Estates International

01858 433500



WEST DORSET & Lyme Regis

For all seasons, for all reasons

A warm welcome awaits

West Dorset Tourism PO Box 2285 Dept SHT Dorchester DT1 1YJ

01305 269035 (24hrs)

137

إعلانات من الأصل

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1989 (TRADE)
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)
FAX: 0171 782 7824

TRAVEL

BALEARICS

HOUSE with Fab views by the sea in Mallorca, Sandy Beach, Golf, Pool Fr £600pw 0171 8381062

CANARIES & MADEIRA

JUST LANZAROTE lux villas private htd secluded pools. Many extras. 01234 843843. www.just_lanzarote.demon.co.uk

MADEIRA *Funchal. Sea front priv apt. 2 baths, 2 bed, lge balc. Pl. TV. £275pw. 01255 814732.*

CORSICA

BUNGALOW + Apt, Pool, Sea view. Nr beach and mtns. Travel help. From £250pw. 01624 836660.

CORSICAN PLACES We specialise in Corsica. Lovely villas with pools, cottages by the sea, medieval village houses, carefully selected hotels. Very friendly personal service. Atol 2647 Aito 01424 460046 Fx 460033

FLY/DRIVE Corsica. Direct flights from Manchester/Gatwick. Tailor-made holidays to coastal and mountain apts. & hotels. Early Season May/June prices now available. Brochure line (01242) 240310 (www.vfbhols.co.uk) VFB Holidays Ltd. AITO ATOL 1403

CARIBBEAN

Aaah CUBA! Independent Travel. Interchange colour brochure T: 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

BARBADOS, luxury 1 bed apartment/ sea views, close fabulous west coast, pool side bar/ restaurant. Tel: 01637 874716

BARBADOS Charming hse on super sandy beach. Maid. Fr 6/4/98 & C/mas 01892 518301.

CAPTIVATING CUBA Tailor-made or all inclusive holidays to 3,4, & 5 star hotels/resorts, from £378. Book with the leading specialist. 0181 891 2222 ABTA V9381 ATOL 2909.

TOBAGO. Large family house in 2½ acres. Pool, staff, secluded panoramic location. Tel: 01647 221 208 Fax: 01647 221 410.

BARBADOS
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
April - December 1998

Caribbean Escapes

GLITTER BAY & ROYAL PAVILION

Enjoy added value this summer at *these two luxury* resort hotels

ONE WEEK FROM
£897
per person
including 2 free nights

SPECIAL PRICES ALSO ON OFFER FOR TAKING THE CHILDREN

For further details call our personal travel advisors

CARIBTOURS

0171 581 3517

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

CRUISING in Turkish Med, 120ft luxury schooner. Available only 20/30 April. 0181 348 7982.

GREECE, Turkey, N Cyprus. Private yacht charter, whole boat, singles holidays. Skippered 52ft ketch. 01250 873324

CYPRUS

BEACH villa, flat & studio with pools, & cottage nr sea, Paphos & Pissouri area. 01425 403527

LIMASSOL 1 & 2 bedroom Apts, Denis0181 6471854, Fax Nickos 00 357 5327973

EASTERN EUROPE

FREGATA TRAVEL
POLAND
CZECH REP
RUSSIA
HUNGARY
ROMANIA
EASTERN EUROPE
BULGARIA
CROATIA
BALTICS
AUSTRIA &
GERMANY
0171 451 7066

FAR EAST

AMAZING Far East Offers! Bangkok 5nts fr £419, Penang 5nts fr £524, Pattaya 12 nts fr £469, Phuket 12nts fr £519, Hong Kong 5nts fr £619, Singapore 5nts fr £569, *Bali 7nts fr £615.* All include flights with leading carriers, accom, transfers & tax. Call now for brochure. For East Gateways 0161 945 4321. E-mail gateways@dial.pipex.com ABTA V064X ATOL 3042.

FRANCE

ALPS/ST GERVAIS. 3 lux family apts in pte chalet, slps 4-8. Sat TV/video. 01222 384441

SEAFRANCE

FOR THE LOWEST FARES FROM DOVER TO CALAIS CALL SEAFRANCE FERRIES ON

0990 711 711

FRANCE

ALONG and behind the Cote D'Azur from Monaco to St Tropez the best villas, all with their own pools are in the Palmer & Parker blue book 01494 812002.

ANNECY Lakeside Chalet/apts with pool. Family activities. Tel 01773 853300 Fax 853311

AVAIL July/Aug Catalan village house 5 dble beds, 2 bath, ½ hr Med. £550 pw. 01494 488197.

B&B 10 mins Disney & 30 mins Paris. Beside golf & with Scottish hosts! 0033 164 668169

BRITTANY Nr Dinan Fabulous 18C forge on a beautiful canal in peaceful village. Beaches 25 mins, slps 8/10 Call: 01258 817562 for brochure.

BRITTANY Charming cottage, sleeps 8, suit family. 2 bedrooms, large garden. Fr £300pw. 00353 21772338 / 21774292.

BRITTANY *Gite. 2 beds. Idyllic loc. 20 mins St Malo/Dinan. Fr £210pw. 01752 662598.*

COTE D'AZUR Valbonne. Apartment in large villa with pool. Slps 4/6. Spectacular view of Alps & overlooking village. £300-475pw 0033 493129581

CYCLING down quiet country lanes. Just enough exercise to work up an appetite for the next great meal! Stay at charming small hotels in 10 enchanting regions. We carry your bags. *Headwater 01606 813336* ATOL 2412 AITO

DORDOGNE historic village House 2 beds from £200 wk. Tel: 001 416 759 4717 Fax: 001 416 759 2232

DORDOGNE Restored farmhouse situated amongst vineyards, sleeps 7, all modern amenities, pool (shared). 01763 271385.

DORDOGNE Beautiful rural barn conversion. Fr £100pw, slps 2/4. Tel/Fax: 01642 778298

DORDOGNE Riverside house to let, Fish, Canoe, Swim, Slps 7-8, Tel 01483 202502

DORDOGNE lovely house, slps 6/8, rural setting, pool & tennis court. Phone: 01242 602981.

FAMILY *gite in picturesque village setting, priv pool. Slps 6-8.* 01932 853945/ 0966 372812.

LOT Et Garonne. Country hse, sleeps 8/10, pool, most dates. £850wk 0033 553 017243.

LOT Cancellation leaves idyllic cottage (slps 6), private pool, avail 14-28/8. Also 4-18/9. Tel: 01986 218410 brochure.

LOT 10km South of Cahors. 18th Cent beautifully restored house, 9 acres, sleeps 8, own *pool & tennis . Avail July, Aug, Sept.* £1,200 p.w. min 2 weeks. Maid services inc. 0171 221 2212 Fax: 0171 221 1700

LUBERON Provence lge restored house in hamlet. Slps 10-12. Lge kit. Large Salon, 6 beds, 2 baths. Terr & lge gdn. Own pool. Avail July, Aug, Sept. 5,000 FF-12,000 FF pw. 00334 9075 2516

NORMANDY Easter-Summer Charming old hse nr sea, slps 10. Fr £400pw. 0171 7363965

NORMANDY 4 bed, F/Hse, lge gdn, ¼ hr beaches. Apr-Oct Fr £180pw. 01409 281819

NORMANDY rural setting, detached house. Well equipped, 4 double bedrooms, edge of village, near to Bayeux, landing beaches, forest, etc. For short or long lets. For col pamphlet. Tel: 0800 163336

PARIS Montparnasse Lux apt newly refurb, super area, dozens of restaurants, clubs nearby. Lge lounge, bedrm-twin beds, slps 2/4, o'looks gdns, quiet. R Stead 01967 431616

PROVENCE nr. Uzes. Beautiful farmhouse, large pool & garden. Slps 5/10. Special rates for World Cup period from £300pw. Tel/fax: 0033466832364/08.

PROVENCE Seillans, architect's hse, stunning views, pool, slps 6/7. Tel/Fax 01772 783262.

PROVENCE Luberon. 17C Bijoux finhse, gdns, pool, vines, views, nr villages. 0181 868 2937.

PROVENCE Country Villa, Slps 8, Pool, Close Pretty Village with Chateau. 01491 671716

S.FRANCE St Jean Cap Ferrat village centre. Luxury studio, garden, garage. 0171 352 4475.

SW Magnificent country house, pool, idyllic location btw Bordeaux & Toulouse. For brochure call 0033 5 63956531.

FRANCE
A superior choice of traditional French holiday properties.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143681 QUOTE REF: F359
VACANCES EN CAMPAGNE

NORMANDY
Gites de France cottages
☐ Self-catering
☐ Choice of 120
☐ Best locations
Normandie Vacances FREE Brochure
01922 725705

FRANCE SPECIALIST
Top quality accommodation in Chambre d'Hotes-Chateaux and hotels for short breaks or longer stays
All inclusive holidays or overnight accommodation in Logis de France
Paris City Breaks
CALISTER TRAVEL
0181 659 1414 T.T.A Bonded

BRITTANY Work the Express
... holiday homes on ... star sites by the sea. Also river cruising and 2 & 3 star hotels.
May and June Special Offer
10 nights for the price of 7
Premier mobile homes from just £295
BRITTANY DIRECT HOLIDAYS
TEL: 0181 641 6060
www.brittany-direct.co.uk
ABTA V3262

Allez France
Super Sites
Mobile Homes
-Top Coastal Sites
-W. Coast & Med
-Low Prices
PHONE FREE FOR BROCHURE ON
0500 404140
Quote SS98-T
AITO ABTA V3421 ATOL

Allez France
Villas & Cottages
-FREE en route hotel
-Coast & country
-Many with pools
BROCHURE FREEPHONE
0500 303130
Quote BR98-T
AITO ABTA V3421 ATOL

Chez Nous '98
SAVE MONEY - BOOK DIRECT! 2000 PRIVATE OWNERS ADVERTISE
Chateaux • Villas & Farm Houses, many with pools • Cottages • Studios • Apartments • Family Hotels • Mobile Homes • Bed & Breakfasts • City Breaks
All regions of France.
Free 316 pg Colour Brochure
Tel: 01484 682503
http://www.cheznous.com

SEASIDE Villa. Les Sables d'Olonne. Vendee. Sleeps 8 + 4. Tel: 01308 456288

TARN, easy reach Toulouse, Carcassonne & Albi. Fully Modernised Historic Village Forge. Comfortable accom for 6. Gdn & Terrace. CH. Pleasant Views. 01703 454189.

VAR Lux villa ½ hr coast. Sleeps 8-10. Swim pool. Max £1380pw. Tel: 0117 9640761 Fax 909 3549

WALKING in 10 unspoiled French regions. All levels, guided or independent, warm, friendly hotels, great regional cuisine, everything arranged for you. Headwater 01606 813336 ATOL 2412 AITO

GERMANY

GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accom. All major c.c. German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA 90685 ATOL 2977 IATA

GREECE

AMAZINGLY honest award winning brochure. We offer a wide selection of small family run hotels, studios, apartments, villas and traditional houses on 10 islands: *Alonissos, Halki,* Kalymnos, Leros, Spetses, Symi, Lipsi, Skopelos, Tilos. 24 hour Brochure Line. Tel: 01629 824881. Laskarina Ltd. ATOL 1424 AITO

CRETE, Skiathos, Skopelos. Personalised Villa holidays. Tel 01689 877938 ATOL 2679

GRECOFILE/FILOXENIA Escape Packages! A complete service for the discerning traveller Atol Aito 2817 01422 375999

SECRET *Greek Island retreats for* those who seek a more luxurious escape from the crowds. Greek Islands Club's New Private Collection. Tel: 01932 220477 ABTA AITO ATOL.

THE TIMES recommends Pure Crete, breathtaking views & empty beaches. Pure Crete 0181 760 0879 ATOL AITO.

ITALY

APULIA/CALABRIA Sicily, Amalfi, Sardinia. Discover the wonderful South. Villas, hotels, pools. 01694 722193. ATOL AITO.

A super offer, Tuscany, beaut ind villa & pool. Apr/May. £195 per week 2 persons, £225 4 persons. 01983 282351

CINQUETERRE Hillside cottage. Super view over La Spezia Gulf. Slp up 6. June-Oct. £375-£575pw. 0171 736 5101

CYCLING down quiet country lanes. Just enough exercise to work up an appetite for the next great meal! Stay at charming hotels in Tuscany & Umbria. We carry your bags. Headwater 01606 813363 Atol 2412 Aito

ISCHIA, nr Capri, Sorrento, enchanting green island, private apartment. 01622 676779

LE MARCHE elegant villa, stunning views, 52ft pool, Slps 12, Fr £1200 pw. 0191 212 1234.

MARCHE 4 bed farmhouse, magnificent pool, views, mountains, walking. 01704 541186.

NEAPOLITAN RIVIERA - Amalfi, Positano & Capri. Beautiful private villas & apts. For 1998 brochure. Cottages to Castles 01622-720731-ABTOT bonded.

PRIVATE country villa near Siena, suits house parties, pool. 01446 772521 (home).

ROMANTIC Med'val Tuscany. B/B charm'g old villa, Eng run, midst mountains, rivers, castles. Near coast. Good food, veg/veg. £25pppn T/F 0039 187427022

SICILY & Aeolian Islands. We specialise in package & tailor-made holidays incl Hotels, Self-Catering, Fly/Drive, Tours & Flights only. Sicilian Experience, 6 Palace St London SW1E Tel 0171 8289171 ABTA/ATOL

TUSCAN COAST. House with magnificent sea views, close to beaches. Other properties in unspoilt Argentario 90 mins. nth of Rome. Villas Argentario. Tel: 01881 987 9919 Fax: 0181 747 8343.

TUSCANY/UMBRIA - quality selection of private villas & apts, sleeping 2-22. For 1998 brochure Cottages to Castles. 01622 720731 ABTOT bonded.

TUSCAN farmhouse on wooded hillside. 12 miles Cortona, 4 bedrooms, private pool, lovely views in tranquil farming valley. Tel/Fax: 0039 575690088

TUSCANY/SICILY Select properties in excellent locations, pools etc. Brochure 01539 431120 ABTA V7333

TUSCANY Peralta Nr Lucca beautiful medieval hamlet in hills, sea views, S/C hses, slp 2 to 8. Pool.Tel/Fax0033 493 562006

TUSCANY/SICILY 2 villas each slp 8 Fr £600pw extra info 00 39 348363141 Also for sale.

TUSCANY beautiful lux villa nr Lucca. Sleeps 12. Heated pool Stunning views. 0117 9145255

UMBRIA/TUSCANY BDR 4 exclusive rural properties, slps 2-14. Shared heated pool. Owner supervised. 017687 75679.

VENICE/Treviso Luxurious apartment available in July. Accomodates 2/5. Only £400 per week. Call 0181 748 6418 for free leaflets

VENICE s/c flat + dbl rms incl bath-b'fast £75 in beautiful Hened palazzo 10 mins St Marks - Rialto. 0039 41 5225685.

VENICE. Central. Stay with us in our palatial home. Open all yr S/c apt avail. 0171 7227139.

WALKING in the Florentine and Umbrian hills. All levels, guided or independent, warm friendly hotels, great regional cuisine, everything arranged for you. Headwater 01606 813363 ATOL 2412 AITO

CAREFREE ITALY
Country Villas & Apartments
Charming Intimate Hotels
City Apartments
01293 552277
ABTA V0777 ATOL 3495

Traditional farmhouses, villas and apartments in Italy's prettiest regions.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE RING (0990) 143683 QUOTE 1365
VACANZE IN ITALIA

SIMPLY Tuscany & Umbria
Traditional country villa-apartments with pool, charming intimate hotels and flexible fly-drive holidays. 'Grand Touring' and Painting holidays plus short breaks to Florence, Venice and Rome.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

Villas
ITALIAN LIFE
0113 281 8811

MALTA & GOZO

EXTENSIVE Choice of Hotels, Villas & Apts for best prices Brochure avail 01204 669114.

PORTUGAL

ABSOLUTELY Algarve, Tavira area, 3 bed detached villa, own pool & grounds. 01865 749181

AFFORD Vale do Lobo. Owners Club. Lux villa, pool, maid. Low prices. 01752 261383.

ALGARVE Privately owned luxury villa on hillside near Loule, 5 bedrooms, sleeps 9, 3 and ½ bath, large pool, tennis court. BBQ. Daily maid. Car hire essential. Tel: 01334 838411.

ALGARVE 2 apartments to let, sleeps 4/6, attached to private villa with pool, quiet country-side location. 01464 861621

ALGARVE Vale do Lobo, lux 3 bed villa, pool, 10 mins beach, golf & tennis disc. 01403 782440

ALGARVE Nr Lagos/beaches. Lux countryside family villa. Lge pool, maids. 01825 384702.

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts, hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 656 2424. Retail agents. ABTA E143X

QUINTA DO LAGO-fine houses with their own pools are in the Palmer & Parker blue book 01494 812002

QUINTA DO LAGO luxury villa & apartment available. Tel: 01202 293839

PORTUGAL, MADEIRA & THE AZORES
BOOK DIRECT & SAVE £100's!
Low Budget & Luxury Holidays
Hotels, Villas, Apts, Manors, Pousadas, Fly Drives, Coach Tours & Douro Cruises. (Packages, Flights on Acc. only)
NEW direct flights Manchester - Oporto/Lisbon
Portugala Holidays Tel 0181 444 1857
94 Fortis Green N2 9EY Atol 3253

SIMPLY Portugal
Truly individual villas with pools, glorious manor houses and selected hotels and pousadas all over this enchanting country, from the Minho and the Douro to the lesser-known Algarve. Plus flexible 'Wandering' holidays and city breaks.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

RUSSIA

RUSSIA/Ukraine. Independent Travel Specialists. Packages, Airfares, Groups. Interchange 0181 681 3612 ATOL 2429

SPAIN

AFFORD LA MANGA CLUB. APR 18 - MAY 16, 50% OFF. Villa, pool, golf disc. 01752 261383.

CATALONIA/COSTA BRAVA. Best selection s/c villas & apts with pools and hotels. Spanish Harbour 0117 986 0777.

FUENGIROLA Las Palmeras, 2 bed, 2 bath Apt. Available from Mar. Tel: 018206 27087

UNIVERSAL TRAVELLERS
SPAIN
Traditional country houses, villas and apartments many with pools in rural Spain & Portugal.
FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
RING (0990) 143682
QUOTE E5174

SIMPLY Spain
Escape the mainstream with our unique range of rural farmhouses, country villas with pools and exquisite small hotels in unspoilt locations throughout Andalucia and Mallorca. Plus flexible 'Wandering' holidays and tailor-made options.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

SPECIAL INTEREST

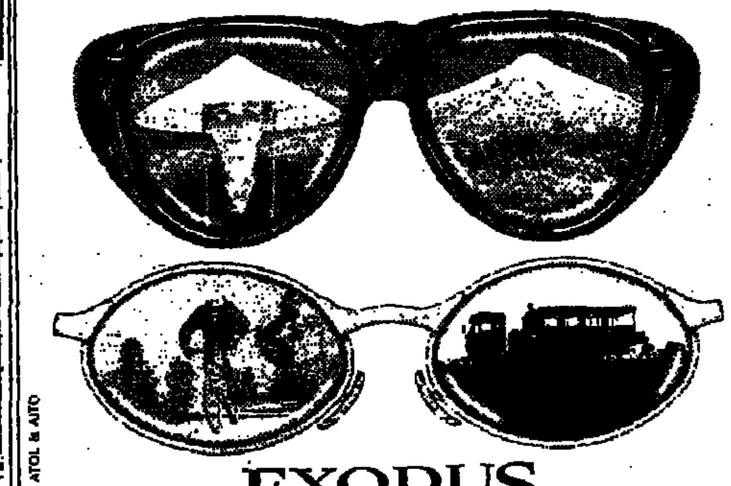
EXPLORE worldwide
Discover the unique experience of a small group adventure in
Spain Greece Turkey
Bulgaria Russia Iceland
Egypt Morocco Tanzania
Thailand Vietnam Borneo
••• plus another 70-odd countries.
8 to 30 days. Prices from £345.
Call 01252 344161
(24 hrs) for brochure
Explore Worldwide (SAT) Aldershot GU11 1LQ www.explore.co.uk
Fully bonded AITO/ATOL 2595

SOME BOOKS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE. THIS ONE CAN CHANGE EVERYBODY'S.

To find out how you can join an Earthwatch team providing funds and assistance on over *130* environmental and cultural projects world-wide, get the Earthwatch Institute Expedition Guide. Call 01865 311 600 with your credit card or send a cheque for £3.50, made payable to Earthwatch, to EARTHWATCH FREEPOST OF157, OXFORD OX2 6BR.

EARTHWATCH INSTITUTE
Registered Charity No. 227612
FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Puts other holidays in the shade



EXODUS
The Different Holiday
Leaders in small group walking & discovery holidays, biking adventures & overland expeditions worldwide
9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT. 0181 673 0859. http://www.exodustravels.co.uk
Fully Bonded ATOL & AITO
Shades supplied by VUARNET

SPAIN

ANDALUCIA 800 metres above sea level; fabulous views to sea: houses in mountain hamlet. Prices from £250 pw. Beautiful pool in grounds of local bar. All family run. Unspoilt villages nearby; remote but accessible. Malaga 1 hr. 01483 506749 or 0171 229 9309.

COSTA BLANCA luxury Spanish Villas, pvte pools, highest standards. Save at least £800 pw from large holiday brochure prices. Maintenance service. Treat yourself to a lux Spanish holiday. 01984 641003

LA MANGA CLUB. Villa available. Apartment also. 50% discount golf/tennis 01202 293839.

LOS MONTEROS, Marbella. Lux det 4 bed, 4 bath villa on 1 level, own pool and gdn, nr beach club. 0181 387 5585

MARBELLA to Gibraltar-the best villas all with private pools are in the Palmer & Parker blue book 01494 812002.

MENORCA Son Vitamina. Luxury villa, 3 double bedrooms ensuite. Own pool. Satellite TV. Owners home. 01788 569293.

SPECIAL INTEREST

CYCLING down quiet country lanes. Just enough exercise to work up an appetite for the next great meal! Stay at charming hotels in France & Italy. We carry your bags . Headwater 01606 813337 ATOL AITO

CYCLING & WALKING
holidays in Bavaria and the Black Forest. Free brochure from Bents Bicycle & Walking Tours
01568 780800
AITO ATOL 2867

JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA
Escorted Groups & Bespoke Tours
0181 747 8315
Or
0161 832 1441
ABTA V2522 ATOL 2828 IATA AITO

KE ADVENTURE Travel
Exploratory holidays to remote areas of the Karakoram & Hindu Kush.
•Trekking •Climbing •Mountain Biking

PAKISTAN PIA
Tel: 017687 73966
keadventure@enterprise.net

Small group holidays off the beaten track...
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA ASIA EUROPE FAR EAST AMERICAS
☎01420 541007
TRAVELBAG
Adventures
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST

SKYROS The Holistic Experience In Greece and the Caribbean. Tel: 0171 284 3065 or www.skyros.com/

TENNIS Golf Bowls and leisure holidays in Spain, Algarve, USA, Caribbean. Sports & Leisure Holidays Ltd 01794 600600 TTA E4022

TENNIS Holidays, The Jonathan Markson Algarve Tennis Centre Beautiful location. All ages & standards. Also Marrakesh weeks. 0171 460 0600 (24hr)

WALKING in France, Italy, Europe and the Med. All levels, guided or independent, warm friendly hotels, great regional cuisine, everything arranged for you. Headwater 01606 813337 ATOL 2412 AITO

TURKEY

TURKEY '98
away from the crowds closer to the country
Gulet Cruising
Idyllic coastal villages
Villas with pools
Cappadocia & Mount Nemrut
Two Centre & Tailor-made Holidays
DOLUNAY HOLIDAYS
01452 501978

SIMPLY Turkey
Escape the mainstream with our unique range of rural cottages, villas with private pools and friendly hotels. Plus our flexible 'Wandering' programme, special interest holidays, gulet cruising and Istanbul city breaks.
0181 995 9323
ABTA V1337 ATOL 1922 AITO

USA & CANADA

ABSOLUTELY nowhere near Disney! The best apartment on Sanibel Isl, Fla. Paradise: Beaches, Shells, Wildlife. Enfeli '98 vacancies. 01851 672242

DISNEY 15 mins, 3 bed, 2 bath villa, htd pool, just upgraded most dates. 0113 2868336

BEST Florida prices from the property rental specialists. Luxury homes and apartments in superb locations, Gulf Coast, Orlando, and Keys. For Colour brochure and friendly advice. Florida Rentals 01822 866534.

DISNEY 5 mins, 4 bed lux bungalow, own htd pool, large garden. Sleeps 8-10. 0113 2566266.

KISSIMMEE Orlando, Lux 3 + 4 bedrm villas, slp 6-8, pvt pool. N/S preferred. 0161 207 4020.

NAPLES Florida. Lux 2 bed/2 bath apt. Near beach, pool. £400pw. 01709 818426 before 9pm

NEW ENGLAND Connection - UK specialists for inspected houses to rent. 01306 877500.

NEW YORK, New York - Apartments - short stays. All Manhattan locations. Have fun in NYC from £99.00 per apt. per night. Tel: Apartments International 0171 9253651

ORLANDO Villa/pool nr Disney. Slps 6. Vacs Apr-June, Sep-Oct. fr £275pw. 01883 744658

SARASOTA New 4 bed htd pool home, lake loc, golf & beaches. Tel/Fax: 0171 739 8343.

FLORIDA FLYDRIVES
May from £169.00 June from £169.00 July/Aug from £239.00 Sept/Oct £249.00
LUXURY ORLANDO ACCOMODATION
5 mins to Disney- Chatham Park and Hamiltons reserve. Homes with own pool from £389.00.
Call the experts now AZTEC USA 01772-200206. ABTA P299X

ALL THE BEST OF CANADA
All types of holidays. All year round. Free colour Brochure.
ABTA V6188 ATOL 2290
Phone 0990 434 434
Quote AC6271

U.K. HOLIDAYS

HIDEAWAYS Cottages of distinction from Cornwall to Kent & Wessex to the Heart of England. Col brochure 01747 828000

SHORT BREAKS
A superb choice from the Scottish Highlands to Devon in over 50 destinations around Britain.
London breaks & theatre packages
• Country house hotels
• Romantic weekends • Weekaways
• Special interest and activity breaks
0345 585 707
LOCAL CALL RATE, 24 HOURS
Call now for your FREE Thistle Hotels Leisure Breaks brochure, or pick up a Highlife Breaks brochure from your travel agent.
THISTLE HOTELS

Jetset Freedom Breaks
TAKE-A-BREAK NOW!
A HUGE variety of Short-break ideas all over
ENGLAND • IRELAND
SCOTLAND • WALES
Get our FREE 78-page brochure from your Jetset travel agent, and CHOOSE from over 500 HOTELS, or...
...call 08706 090909
ABTA V6735 ATOL 3192

SPECIAL INTEREST

U.K. HOLIDAYS

HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES
Hand-picked cottages throughout Britain. Coastal and countryside. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 603
Quote C4625

English Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice in England's loveliest areas.
Free 436 page colour brochure.
RING (0990) 851111
QUOTE EM841 (24Hrs)

NEW ENGLAND COUNTRY HOMES
Coastal, lakeside and inland homes throughout New England.
FREE 116 PAGE BROCHURE (0990) 143686 (24 Hrs) Quote Ref. A230.

LODGES & HOLIDAY PARKS
The widest choice of self-catering family holidays in Britain. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 601
Quote H1871
HOSEASONS

U.K. & EMERALD COTTAGE HOLIDAYS
NEW 1998 BROCHURE - OUT NOW
Scotland, Northumberland, Lakes, Dales, Peaks, Wales, East Anglia, Kent Sussex, Cotswolds, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall + Ireland prices less than UK even including ferry!!!
01756 702225

HELPFUL HOLIDAYS
for West Country self-catering.
Huge variety of over 450 cottages, homes, even a fort.
All vividly described & star rated
Colour brochure
01647 433535
www.webscape.co.uk/helpful_holidays

HIDEAWAYS
COUNTRY & COASTAL COTTAGES OF CHARACTER AND DISTINCTION
West Country, Wessex, the Heart of England and the South East.
FREE Colour Brochure
01747 828000 (24hrs)

Pets Welcome

HOSEASONS COUNTRY COTTAGES
Pets welcome – hundreds of cottages in superb walking country. Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 603
Quote C4626

Canal Boat Holidays
Peaceful and beautiful. The widest choice on the canals of England and Wales. For your free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 602
Quote B7455
HOSEASONS

classic cottages
Just for the discerning!
Free brochure featuring 350 selected West Country cottages
01326 565555
www.classic.co.uk

Recommended COTTAGES Low deposits
1st Choice
First Choice For Over 600 Dream Cottages Throughout The UK!
01751 47 55 47

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

WHEELY Wonderful Cycling & Walking holidays. Shropshire. Brochure. 01568 770755

CORNWALL & DEVON

BEAUTIFUL cottage Roseland, St Mawes nr beach, gardens. Apr/May/June. 01872 501214

BEST selection of Tourist Board inspected holiday cottages on North Devon's National Trust coastline and Exmoor. Marsdens Cottage Holidays 01271 813777 (24 hrs)

CHARMING listed Creekside cottage, new dec. Idyllic Falmouth Estuary. 4 + Cot room. Regret no pets. Tel: 0118 973 4772

CLASSIC Cottages. Over 350 select cottages in the West Country, just for the discerning. Brochure 01326 565555

CORNISH Country Cottages in heart of Countryside, nr sea. Available now. 01503 220333

CORNISH RIVIERA. The Daphne Du Maurier festival of arts and literature. 8-17 May. For info & prog of events 01726 74324

CORNWALL & Devon. 300 cottages throughout. Reasonable prices. Tel 01752 260711

CORNWALL Specialists. Choose from over 350 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC205)

COTTAGES around Mullion Cove & The Lizard Peninsula. For broch 01326 240315

CRANTOCK NEWQUAY Bungalow Sleeps 4,12 mins walk to surfing beach, white sands, no pets. 01637 830685

DARTMOUTH 2 miles, cosy farm cottage on coastal footpath. Garden. Slps 6. 01803 835828.

DEVON'S Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. Phone now!! 01756 702200

FREE Colour guide to the 500 best value cottages in Devon (01271) 376322.

HELFORD RIVER Idyllic cottage fronting beach, private mooring, walled garden. Slps 5, 3bed, 2bath. Aug full. 01326 231136.

LIZARD PENINSULA Beamed cottage, sleeping 6, garden, BBQ, Parking. Avail Easter onwards from £185pw. 01270 568735.

NEWQUAY lux home, slps 10, beach/Newquay *10 mins. £420-£890pw.* 01637 872977

NO phone , no TV - get away from it all - thatched cott, idyllic Slapton, South Hams. 8 mins walk sea and nature reserve. Comfortable dining and drawing rms, 2 bthrms, *6* bdrms, slps 10. Dble garage, large patio and lawn. 0181 882 4807

NORTH Cornwall luxury 17th C farmhouse. Sleeps 10. Avail from June. 01208 850376

PADSTOW *quaint* cottage, 400 yds harbour, slps 2. Avail June, July, Sept. Tel: 0117 9681838

PORTHLEVEN large ground floor apartment. Sleeps 4-5, superb harbour & sea views, cliff top garden. Avail mid July-Sept. £400pw. 01736 364803

S. DEVON Stunning cliff position, own steps super beach, bungalow, slps 4/6, high spec, ETB 4 Keys.High com. 01823 601606

SOUTH DEVON Family cottage in village. Slps 6-8. Coastal walks, beaches. 0171 350 0201.

ST IVES Fishermans cottage, 100 yards harbour, 2 en-suite bedrooms, slps 6. 01736 797450.

ST IVES Nr. Spacious flat in wildlife sanct. S/C, C/H, Slps 4-6, avail Easter on. 01736 753365.

ST IVES Centre of town. Beautiful recently restored cottage sleeps 2/3. Tel: 01736 753537.

ST IVES Centre of town, superb spacious maisonette. Sleeps 6. Tel: 01736 753537.

VILLAGE 3 miles Newquay, mod cott, slps up to 6, close local transport, shops, pubs, restaurants. Reply to Box No 2051.

WATERSIDE Cottages, nr Fowey/ Polruan. Superb vws. Dinghies. Pets welc. 01579 344667

Cornish Traditional Cottages
Self-catering cottages on both coasts of Cornwall and on Scilly
For your FREE brochure
PHONE
0990 134967

COTSWOLDS

ABSOLUTE comfort, highly commended country cottages. Winchcombe (01242) 602390

CHARMING Restored old cottage in beautiful village of Blockley near Chipping Campden. Sleeps 4, fully equip. 01386 701582

VERY pretty village cottage. Fully equipped. Well furn. Sleeps 4. 01452 812458 / 3727.

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

BROADWINDSOR Listed peaceful countryside cottage, ETB highly commended, slps 5, own garden. Tel: 01452 883735.

DORSET & New Forest Specialists. Choose from over 220 cottages 01455 852505 (LBC210)

DORSET Coastal Cottages. Old, cosy, much loved homes. Great walking. 01305 852988

16thC conv farm cottages, indoor pool complex, marshwood vale, 3 mls fr coast. 01297 489093

APRIL SPECIAL
3 nights from £89
Bed, Breakfast and Evening Meal
Large seafront hotel, entertainment, indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna.
• FREE CAR FERRY •
Sandringham Hotel, Seafront, Sandown, Isle of Wight
Telephone: 01983 406655
May Day Holiday 3 nights £99

EAST ANGLIA

N NORFOLK Coastal cottage, well equipped. Slps 6 in dble/twin rooms. Close to Burnham Market and sandy beaches. Own garden and parking. Avail June-September. Tel: 01379 678372

EAST ANGLIA

COUNTY Capers as Norfolk Leaps into Spring - Come & join us! Comfortable warm s/c cottages, coastal and country, sleeping 2-12 with our special Norfolk Country Cousins care & attention. For broch. 01692 650286

EAST Anglia Specialists. Choose from over 460 properties. 01455 852505 (LBC207)

N NORFOLK Holt, beautifully refurb accom in lovely area, all amens, slps 6. 01263 713640.

HOLIDAYS AFLOAT

BOATING in France, 18 bases to choose from including Midi, Alsace, Burgundy. One way trips and short breaks possible. Colour broch 0116 279 3883

BOATING in BRITAIN
The widest choice. The Broads, Canals, Thames, Wey, Fens and Scotland.
Free colour brochure.
Phone 01502 502 602
Quote B7454
HOSEASONS

EIRE

AMAZING value quality Irish cottages accross all the most beautiful areas of Southern Ireland. 7nt ferry incl. price from £219. 106 page colour brochure. 01756 702241

CLARE. 1/4 mile from beach. Near Spanish Point & Miltown Malbay. Self contained flat in beautiful countryside. Ideal for perfect sandy beaches & tranquility but also a superb touring base. Scenic walks, fishing & excellent golf. Ideal for children. Tel: 0171 272 7496 day or 0171 281 0871 eves.

CO. CLARE Spanish Point. New luxury bungalow, all mod cons beside Atlantic Ocean, 3 bedrooms, sleeps 6. June onwards. 00353 1 624 2173 Evenings

EXCLUSIVE Cottage Killaloe, Lough Derg. Fishing. Scenery. Enquiries 00353 614 53472

FERMANAGH Lakeland. Lovely cottage, slps 5. Fishing, walking. 01232 583680(eves)

IRISH Country Holidays. You can choose from over 200 delightful cottages. Also touring, boating and horse drawn caravans. Special ferry discounts. For your free brochure call 01502 560688 (24 hrs)

IRELAND Specialists. Choose from over 110 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC209)

KENMARE "The Jewel of Kerry." Delightful elevated 4* home. 3 ensuite bedrooms, private car park & garden. 2 mins town, golf links & great walks. Tel: 00353 64 41016/41132

KERRY Kenmare Bay. Stone ctge, slps 4+. CH. 0181 398 5556 (Home). 0181 268 4232 (W).

SHAMROCK COTTAGES. 286 select individual cottages in superb locations. Disc Fares. AITO. Col Bro 01823 681060.

W CORK Restored Ctry Hse, Mtn Glen, Slps 7, Sea, Golf, Fishing in Village 01491 671716

LAKE DISTRICT

CUMBRIAN COTTAGES. 230 Lakeland cottages, All ETB inspected. Short break/Whitsun vacs. 01228 599960

HILLTHWAITE HOUSE Windermere Thornbarrow Road, overlooking lake. All rooms ensuite (some with Jacuzzi baths) Satellite TV, teamaking, Sauna, Tylo Steam Room and heated indoor pool solely for our guest's use. 2 nights, 5 course Dinner B&B incl. VAT only £99. 3 nights only £145. Brochure: 015394 43636

HILLTHWAITE House Windermere Thornbarrow Road, overlooking lake. All rooms ensuite (some with Jacuzzi bath). Satellite TV, teamaking, Sauna, Tylo Steam Room and heated indoor pool solely for our guests use 2 nights, 5 course Dinner B&B incl.VAT only £99. 3 nights only £145. Bro 01539 443636

JUST for 2; 17C barn,log fire, CH. Lake 2 mins. Gdn,peace + quiet. Just bliss. 01229 885643.

LAKE DISTRICT Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. 01756 702208

LAKE District Specialists. Choose from over 320 cottages 01455 852505 (LBC203)

LAKES & Eden valley, ex selec of S/C hse, broch. Clark Scott-Harden 01768 868989/24hrs

LANGDALE 3 & 4 bed luxury houses, inc leisure club with pool. 0161 904 9446.

WASDALE s/c cottages in 7 acres. April avail. GCH, Slps 2-4 and 5-7. 01946 726233

RATHER special cottages for two in a secret corner of southern Lakeland. Tel 015395 36475.

LONDON

KENSINGTON Superior Serviced apartments. Tel: 0181 451 3094 Fax: 0181 459 4422.

SAVE Up to 50% on your London hotel bills. Quality hotels. All centrally located. 2* to 5* from £28. 0181 770 0123 The Hotel Directory.

QUALITY holiday apartments from £400pw. Tel: 0171 727 0352/ Fax: 0171 727 6892

NORTHUMBRIA

NORTHUMBRIA Specialists. Choose from over 180 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC201)

NORTHUMBRIA'S Welcome Cottages. 1998 best ever colour brochure. 01756 702217

PEAK DISTRICT

"PEAK COTTAGES" Quality s/c accom. In Derbyshire Dales & Peaks. Brochure 01142 620777

SCOTLAND

BORDERS Quality cottages, superb private rural locations. Pets welcome. 01387 381360

SCOTLAND

CHARMING Murrayshire S/C fully equipped cottages on private estate (up to 15 persons). Tel: 01343 820244

ISLE OF SKYE Quiet crofthouse in small glen on sea loch. Slps 2 (+2). 01599 522374.

GLENELG W. Inver'shire. Lodge by sea. Great views to Skye, slps 12. 01608 651587/ 650547

LOCH NESS peaceful s/c cotts, highland farm. Superb views of Loch + Glen. Slps 6, fully equip. Walking, boating, riding, fishing. Exc base for touring. Open fires. Dogs, Visa & Access accepted! Tel: 01456 450358.

PERTHSHIRE Loch Tay superbly equiped log chalet - sauna, TV, stereo. N/S, slps 2, spectacular views, fishing. Ideal for hill walking, water sports and tranquility. Tel: 01887 830 210

PERTHSHIRE Delightful 2 bed cosy stone cottage. Pitlochry 5 miles. 01887 830644.

SCOTLAND'S Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. Phone Now!! 01756 702213

SAINT ANDREWS Comfortable house. Central. Slps 5/7. Avail all dates. 01609 882687.

SELECTION of self catering cottages. Hamster Cottages brochure/ details 01899 308543

SCOTLAND Specialists. Choose from over 550 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC202)

ST ANDREWS quality, cosy trad. cotts/farm hses. STB. Slp 2-14. Log fires. 01382 330252.

Country Cottages in Scotland
EXCEPTIONAL holiday properties in the most beautiful areas of Scotland.
FREE 88 PAGE BROCHURE
RING (0990) 851133
QUOTE SM502 (24 Hrs)

SOMERSET & AVON

TAUNTON 10 miles. Attractive cottage by stream, sleeps 6, 4 keys, fully equipped, outdoor pool. Tel: 01458 253796.

SUSSEX

BRIGHTON Individual lux house, Slps 6, V central, pkg, most dates. Owner: 01825 712721.

BRICKWALL Hotel, Battle. 1600 Tudor Manor. 2 night breaks £102pp DB&B, 3rd night accom free, pay only £20 for dinner/ breakfast. 3* AA & RAC Best Award 91/97. 01424 870253

EASTBOURNE
2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1
Selected Hotel - Selected Dates
Available for Double or Twin Bedded Rooms Only.
Brochure from:
Eastbourne Associated Hotels
eRoom 14 e3 Jevington Gardens
eEastbourne BN21 4HT
CALL FREE
0800 174177

WALES

BEAUTIFUL quality properties around splendid Welsh coast. Log fires. Linen provided. Pets welcome Free. Call for Colour brochure Quality Cottages 01348 837873

BRECON Beacons. Over 100 s/c cottages some sleep 20. Many less than £250 pw high season. Short brks avail 01874 676446

WALES Specialists. Choose from over 370 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC206)

PEMBROKESHIRE
A superb selection of quality character cottages in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. All properties furnished to the highest standards.
Phone now for free colour brochure
01239-881397 (24hrs)

Welsh Country Cottages
AN UNRIVALLED choice in the best areas of Wales.
Free 68 page colour brochure.
RING (0990) 851122
REF. WM389 (24Hrs)

YORKSHIRE

HACKNESS Perfect hol house, own grnds. Peaceful, unspoilt hamlet in Nat Pk. Walks + birdwatchers paradise! Slps 4, FF. From £200pw. 01723 864273.

NORTH YORKS MOORS Newton Dale. Comfortable farmhouse, slps 8, superb location in National Park. 01234 240296.

YORK City Centre. April-July £25.50pp B&B, £35.50pp DB&B. Supplement for Easter, races and singles. All facilities. Car park. Abbots Mews Hotel 01904 634866

YORKSHIRE Dales Welcome Cottages. 1998 colour brochure. 01756 702209

YORKSHIRE Specialists. Choose from over 380 cottages. 01455 852505 (LBC211)

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
Brochures Service

To receive up to six of the brochures on page 32 please indicate the code number of your choice in the boxes below.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ....

Address: ....

.... Postcode: ....

Please return to:
Times Brochures Service, P.O. Box 1 Tadcaster N. Yorkshire LS24 9XY
or fax your request on: 01937 530 369

By May 11th 1998

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further information and offers from Times Newspapers Ltd. or selected companies approved by us. ☐

TO RESPOND TO AN ADVERTISER...

...BY VOICE MAIL When responding to an advertiser call **0897 505 563** (*calls cost £1.00 per minute*) and then follow the simple voice instructions.

All advertisements in Rendezvous have the ☎ symbol, indicating that the advertiser has the facility for you to leave him/her a voice message.



...BY POST
All postal replies should be addressed to Box No. ..... c/o The Times, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.

THE TIMES

ACROSS THE ROOM (Hertford, Essex, Suffolk). Sparkling Parties. Candlelit dinners. 01277 352742 for brochure.

Attractive educated Ladies & Men from overseas seek partners in The White World Pen Club(VR), PO Box 4 Goring RG8 9YN

BEAUTIFUL Thai Ladies. Colour brochure. Glam Introductions. Tel: 01489 860 880 (anytime)

Bromley Bexley SE & SW London, Dartford, Gravesend. Looking for that special someone? Call Rima any time 0181 468 7976

COMMODORE is the friendship club that puts single Gentlemen in touch with each other. Ring us on 0181 906 4467.

COVENT GARDEN. Singles drinks parties. Every Thursday. Ages 30-50. Mon 2nd. Ladies £15. Free buffet. Habitual free drinks. 0171 836 3070.

ESSEX & Suffolk Elite. Quality local introductions to people just like you Call Tom 7 days on 01277 264242

FOR risk free and effective introductions Freepost PhoneDate on 0800 2 799 799

NEWCASTLE/Durham/Tyneside. Find someone special with Elite. Open 7 days. Call Julie or Ian now. 01670 505123

NORTHANTS & Milton Keynes Elite. The human touch to find your special partner 0800 0034444 24 hrs

PETERBOROUGH/Cambs/SE Lincs/Norfolk/Suffolk. Find someone special with Elite's personal introduction service for business/your people of all ages. Home interviews. Convenience Call 0500 003444

FLIRT PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01252 716909.

RUSSIAN ladies, attractive & sincere, seek western partnerships. IFRL Tel: 01708 676977.

SHREWSBURY Shrop Mid/North Wales. You'll be surprised how local we are Elite 0500 300336

THE DINNER CLUB (Est.'84) Join UK's largest up-market singles dining club and enjoy dining, dancing, weekends away, cards abroad (01244) 346216

THIS PICTURE Dating idea is brilliant' Capital Radio, call for details 0171 839 5884 (day) 0181 297 1424 (anytime) ABIA

WE really are local, TN, CT, ME postcode. Call Jackie 'Elite' Kent 01892 516400

WESTCOUNTRY Elite, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall. Is your time one special? For introductions of Quality 0800 214920

WHY wait for love? Immediate introductions. (Special Section for Young People.) Membership fee for 2 months. Cupid Connections, 72 Newman St, W1 Tel/Fax: 0171 706 3891

YORKSHIRE Humberside probably The No 1 Personal Introduction & Social Events Service in your area. Elite Introductions Freecall 0800 525240

ZARA - Gifted Clairvoyant and Psychic - discreet and caring advice! Immediate telephone consultations - switch/credit cards welcomed 01849 401700 Available 9am to Midnight

LADIES

ANDOVER + Salisbury Elite SP area You We have people like you so ring 07000 781 981 call now 24 hrs

ATTRACTIVE redhead seeks a tall, broad, mature, honest, intelligent man of simplicity, fidelity and affection for special meeting. Scientific, possibly mom. Box No 2029

ATTRACTIVE blonde, 35, seeks caring, professional/ businessman for friendship/ relationship. Box No 2088

BRACKNELL, Reading, Slough, Newbury, Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

BRISTOL lady, 38, v attractive. Fun outdoors type, intelligent, creative, sensible & considerate, WLTM caring, unmarried gentleman. Photo pls. Bx 2021

BRISTOL/Bath area. For local, professional introductions call Chris at Elite 0117 973 6663

BUBBLY, blue-eyed, 34 year old blonde, with a heart SOH & full of fun. Enjoys good wine, seeing out, parachuting, keeping fit, travelling, theatre, who has an extremely rewarding, three commanding, professional life, WLTM male with an equal SOH & an ability to enjoy themselves. Yorkshire. Photo please. Please reply to box No 2030

BUBBLY, attractive blonde with bambiny, toned body & bonk ballistic feet unlucky to love & newly single, seeks absolutely manlized hunk to restring her guitar. Box No 2076

CALL Birmingham 'Elite' now - Gentlemen! Over 500 attractive local ladies. Contact Diana open 7 days 0121 323 3214

CARDIFF, Swansea, Newport, Gloucester. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

CHEERFUL brunette. Exceptionally attractive, tall, slim, blue-eyed, 38, sensual, romantic, intelligent, loves natural & outdoor living. Seeks tall, fun-loving, professional man, 38-45, for long term relationship. Please Reply to Box No 2120

CHEC classy and living in Cheshire. 40s blonde, n/s, no ties, WLTM posh gentleman for fairytale ending Letter/pic please Box 2079

CONFIDENT attractive golfing female, 38, seeks successful gentleman who enjoys relaxing company visiting dining out occasion London Bx 2084

FRENCH lady, 40, attractive, intelligent, slim, 5'3", with children, WLTM good looking, sincere, successful man. If you like to travel, romantic dinners, good food, big Ben, please write with photo. London/ SE. Reply to Box No 2027

GENTLEMEN, are you lonely? Why not have a beautiful female lady as your partner? I am a beautiful lady & offer you a personal assistance to find the girl of your dreams Elizabeth Ann Contacts 01773 590689

GIVE us a break! Two discerning, stylish females (mid 30's/40's) seek two n/s men who aspire & inspire to share sunshine, wine & laughter. A SOH is vital. Box No 2086

INDEPENDENT, attractive, slim, sophisticated lady. Looking for mature, secure gentleman to enjoy life with. Box No 2092

LIVELY, lovely, sympathetic lady (petite brunette), early 40's, genuine SOH, full of spirit & personality, very attractive & sometimes outrageous, excellent social skills. Widowed 2 years +, no hang ups. Reared with2 being the single woman at dinner parties. Interests: sports - tennis, skiing, keep fit; concerts; good food & conversation & theatre. Seeks humorous, successful, solvent, cerebral gentleman, 40's/early 50's, for happiness, friendship & possibly more. London/ SE. Box No 2046

LONDON, attractive, 40's, intelligent, professional, petite, slim, vivacious, desires older male for committed, passionate, romantic relationship.Bx 1992

MOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 'Elite'. 100's of attractive, articulate ladies, all ages, seeking quality ones. Call Elite on 0115 967 6104 for free info

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LOVING, attractive, strawberry blonde, unashamedly, graduate Francophile WLTM communicative, cultured, cheerful chap to cherish me. Box No 2095

RUSSIAN/Ukrainian ladies seeking romance/marriage WAIA Member 0181 447 0255 24 hrs

SALISBURY, Swindon, Bath, Bristol. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

SPECIAL lady, attractive, charming, intelligent, seeks honest, successful gentleman 50-60 to share good life style Looking/ Home Counties Bx 2087

STURMING, slim, long-haired WLTM cheeky gorgeous geezer about, 30-45, num. Will not accept 2nd best, will you? Photo ess. Box No 2050

WARM, friendly, petite 42 year old. Quirky sense of humour. Enjoy: Woody Impressions a speciality. Love the good things in life - travel, country, the arts and food. Seeks gentleman (40-50) with whom to enjoy the future. Letter please. Box No 2085

WARM, medium-bodied, new world Chardonnay seeks mature, spicy Rioja for sensual tasting. Soulful bachlorp will be very male, around 35-45, intelligent, articulate, attractive, adventurous with a GSOH. He should also possess enough budget to be able to communicate with his very favourite consumer. Call me now, Photo & letter appr. Box No 2079

WEST Country, Taunton, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

YOU'VE passed the must-read cause on the head! I know there is someone out there looking for an energetic, fun loving, genuine, attractive, slim, well-read, divorced lady, (50 going on 35), who loves the theatre, music, good wine & interesting company, gardening, hiking, travel etc. Don't delay!!! today!(London/Surrey).Bx 2088

Zzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

AMERICAN lovely lady in USA, 40ish, English, financially well-bred/ academic/ scholarly gentleman. Quiet village/ University lifestyle, for single in England. Box No 1557

ANNUALLY divorced, with children at University, I am sensitive and affectionate and enjoy the theatre, books, gardens and my career. 7x21, slim, late 40's and living in N. London, I would like to meet a warm, intelligent, like-minded man under 60. Box No 1988

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

SPECTACULAR SPRING PARTY
For Single Men And Women
Saturday 25th April
Held at a top London Night Spot.
If you are single, 20 -45, attractive and successful - you should be there!
Circles
The Social Events Company for Single People.
Tel: 0181 426 9168

GENTLEMEN

AFFABLE, professional man who can cook! 33 yr old, breaking mill, intelligent chap is looking for his match. She must be a non-smoker, professionally London-based and aged 22-30. Must have a wicked season of humour, love art, books, public movies, eating out and cosy nights in. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 2066

ARE you seeking romance & adventure? 28-38, slim, sense-tive? A fit, successful, professional guy, 40, WLTM you. Kent/ anywhere. Box No 2028

ATTRACTIVE, caring, country loving 40's Libran seeks younger lady for fun, adventure, partnership? - attractive must respond Please reply SW7 London. Photo appreciated to Box No 2060

BRACKNELL, Reading, Slough, Newbury, Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

BRISTOL/Bath area. For local, professional introductions call Chris at Elite 0117 973 6663

CALL Birmingham 'Elite' now - Gentlemen! Over 500 attractive local ladies. Contact Diana open 7 days 0121 323 3214

CARDIFF, Swansea, Newport, Gloucester. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

CARING professional male, 39, 6' tall, slim, good physique, good-looking, easy-going, loves to laugh, a lady's lady, seeks loving relationship with very dominant, bossy, demanding, intelligent, slim, very accomplished, 30-50 year old woman with lovely legs and beautiful feet. Do you want to be loved, adored, worshipped by a romantic man who will devote himself to your every whim and wait on you hand and foot? Then you've found him! Please respond at the mere tramp of your fingers. If you want to be treated like a Goddess every day of your life, then we could be made for each other. Written reply guaranteed. Photo appreciated. Worth every attention! Box No 1971

DOCTOR, 50's, n/s, slim, fit, WLTM slim, attractive, independent, mobile lady, n/s, 40-50, photo pls. N. London. Enjoys wreat activities.Bx 2082

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

DEFEATED but not down-hearted divorced millionaire 54, of pleasant appearance, apparently incapable of permanent relationship, seeks genuinely funny and attractive, normal up to 40 with loss of time for love, laughter and holidays. London or proximity. Realistic photo essential/ letter. Please Reply by letter to Box No 2105

ELEGANT and classy French Relle Royce, now without silver lady is seeking 30-40 years beautiful lady Burnley to travel together in laughing pleasure. Please Reply to Box No 1702

GOLDEN RETRIEVER living Home/ Surrey border needs lady with 39" + chest to play. He's not used to it being in life, but unlucky in love, enjoys life, & even walks me to the pub. If you've specified two & can make a happy mating please reply with photo to Box No 2025

KNIGHT in distress, 50's widower with family, intelligent, outgoing, country happy, seeking real diamond in feminine armour as permanent life partner. Please Reply to Box No 2075

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GOOD LOOKING genuine gentleman, Surrey area, tall, slim, 52, looks much younger. Own cottage, solvent, n/s, good job - mechanical engineer, no hang-ups, 2 teenage children almost by parents. WLTM attractive, very slim woman, 42-48, easy going, warm, romantic, interesting, to wine & dine, travel etc. Photo essential please. Box No 2014

LEICESTERSHIRE - Mature, wealthy, wanting, n/s, ultilish gent, to rise with, v. attractive, slim lady (50's) for travel/L.T.R. Lecturer/photo only. Bx No 2003

MADE in Italy, no imitations, the real thing, professional businessman, romantic, full of life and with that unique flair, seeks similar 38-47 years old attractive, elegant female who enjoys everything with gusto and wants to live her life to the full. London/Home Counties Reply to Box 2097

MILLIONAIRE businessman, very sporty 40, seeks stunningly attractive lady, 25-35, legal and honest for me to spoil and love for lasting relationship & possibly marriage. Photo essential to Box No 2062

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

DOCTORS • ARCHITECTS • BANKERS • ACCOUNTANTS
drawing down *the* moon
THE ORIGINAL PERSONAL INTRODUCTION AGENCY
Probably the *best* agency in the world
0171-937 6263
Head Office
Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington
City Office, Cannon Street
24 hours Member ABIA, Est 1984
ADVERTISING • WRITERS • MARKETING • STOCKBROKERS • EDUCATIONALISTS
MEDIA • COMPANY DIRECTORS • LAWYERS • PR

MILLIONAIRE businessman, spends time in London & North West, late 30's, considered attractive, blue eyes, brown hair, 6' tall, seeks perspective partner. I have the necessary horses, luxury car, please etc but needs to share the good times & finer things in life with an attractive, successful, slim, intelligent, articulate woman, 26-35, without ties. I am serious about the quality of my life & relationships but still have a wacky Sense of humour. If you are a high achiever, with your feet still on the ground & like candlelit dinners, foreign travel, weekends away & champagne in bed, I want to meet you. Picture essential. Box No 2036

NORTH LONDON professional man, divorced, solvent, reliable, caring, intelligent, sincere, understanding, educated, wide interests, GSOH, WLTM n/s lady, 45-55, for serious relationship. Write to Box 2045

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 'Elite'. 100's of attractive, articulate men, all ages, seeking quality ladies. Call Elite on 0115 967 6104 for free info

ONLY three weeks to go to the next long weekend. Prepare now. Beautiful, intelligent lady, around 40, only has to send her photo & tel no. to a discerning, n/s, fit gentleman of fine taste & I will do the rest. Please reply to Box No 2024

OXFORD gentleman widowed young 50's years to go to country house! ideal man, children almost grown up, C of E, wife loved lifestyle, seeks similar shy girl from good family, n/s, probably 30's, who would not normally reply. Handsome confidential. Worth being brave for total love and happiness Bx 2063

SALISBURY, Swindon, Bath, Bristol. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

SOUTH WALES - Successful, tall, presentable male, young 40's, attractive lifestyle, seeks enchanting lady for friendship. Please reply to Box No 2060

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

PROFESSIONAL businessman, 58, widowed 5 years ago, now wishing to rebuild his personal life, seeks an intelligent, attractive, fun-loving lady. Age immaterial but must want to form a permanent relationship if the chemistry is right. Please enclose photo. All replies will be answered. Box No 2095

TDH 35 yr old rough diamond seeking gem with right chemistry for sparkling future. I'm uniquely successful, wickedly, very funny and far too comfortable, and looking for a warm, bubbly, like-minded, slim, curvaceous sex pertite, fabulously pretty, 28-30ish lady, who values trust and sincerity and a good laugh. Even better if you've a wine drinking sweetness with a passing fondness for motorsport and classic/ exotic cars, and can put up with bolting around Silverstone in red things from Italy. So I guess that rules out politically correct volvo driving vegans, otherwise why not reply with an enchanting photo & letter. Oxon/ M40. Box No 2031

TWO intriguing, charming, affable, executive ladies (mid 30's), one Italian, one English, both passionate about life & lovely, seek honest, adventurous, spirited gentlemen (whether age) to develop new inspiring, loving relationships (1 each). All sincere love letters with photo answered. Box No 2056

WEST Country, Taunton, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth. Call Club Encounters 0800 141 141.

WHO'S for Glyndebourne? An elegant, slim, n/s, mid 50's lady sought to share champagne. Photo please & details of other interests (W. London).Bx 2016

Zzzzz, wake up! Club Encounters is open every day. Call us now free on 0800 141141.

TALL, dark, v. attractive lawyer, own business, 47, n/s, fit, sociable, seeks an intelligent, Franco/Italy, warm, sensuous, humorous, romantic, family, laughing, some sports. Entertaining company, travel, theatre, and romantic. Looking for a partner, friend and lover, who must be stimulating, broad-minded, intelligent, perceptive, easy-going, and pretty attractive. London & North. Photo please, etc. Box No 2012

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

YOU: Pretty, witty, sexy City (London) n free spirit. Me: 6'4" ex-prof, o'er endowed, o'er the hill, but fun, fine & tender. Photo please. Box No 2097

SPRING is now here, with a song and a smile, and thoughts are hopefully turning to look and finding somewhere, that special delightful good looking n/s romantic lady, with a lovely smile and manner, who is active and enjoys life to the full, with GSOH. A little sophistication, combined with chemistry, will bring back that real sparkle and a new meaning into a lasting relationship, full of affection and T.L.C. Enjoying each others company, from pillow talk to drying the dishes or walking in the Lake District, to nothing in Sainsbury's. Its the sharing that makes it all worth while, whilst encompassing romance, music, theatre, disability, countryside, wining, travel, the home and much more, with a retired Cheshire widower, a very young looking and active, 5ft 10ins in his 60, altitude, 5'8, with a good life-style. Who would appreciate a genuine reply, with a recent photo from that lovely lady, allowing the sun to rise once again. Reply Bx 1802

GENTLE, tactile man, retired, very lonely widower, WLTM attractive, intelligent, petite lady, 50-60 years, for friendship/ relationship. Could share hobbies or whatever the lady wishes. N. London/ Beds/ Herts appreciated. Box No 1222

GOLFER. Lasting relationships need lots in common. Are you attractive, perhaps a professional person bored with life's routine, keen on sports, especially golf, likes sun & travel, theatre, cinema & dining out, willing to have almost equal GSOH - age 30-37 & looking for a lifetime partner on & off the links. Leeds & photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1440

GOOD LOOKING genuine English gentleman, Surrey area, slim, 52, looks much younger, n/s, solvent, own home, car, good job, no hang ups, 2 teenage children living at home most time. Enjoys dining out, travel, theatre etc. WLTM attractive, very slim woman, 42-48, easy going, warm, romantic, interesting, to wine & dine, travel etc. Photo essential please. Box No 1404

GOOD LOOKING man, 44, music lover, graduate, various cultural interests, seeks attractive, sensitive woman, 30-45, for friendship, tenderness, joyful moments & lasting relationship. London area. Letter please. Box No 1353

VIRGINIA CHARLES
The exclusive introduction agency for people of quality and integrity
The Old Brewery, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4SG
Telephone 01993 824500
LONDON AND NATIONWIDE

New London Office
Lower Grosvenor Place London SW1
Sara Eden
PERSONAL INTRODUCTIONS
"A stunning success rate... Countless long term relationships" MAIL ON SUNDAY
You won't believe the type of people we attract - why not come along and see for yourself. There's no obligation and we could change your life forever!
Windsor 01753 830350 London 0171 499 9626
Eden House • 38 Thames Street • Windsor • SL4 1PR

APRIL ALONE?
Life could be more fun if you call
Candleburners!
Personal Introductions and Enchanted Evenings for attractive professional people.
Please call Cheryl Brown
Est. 1990 0171 351 5535

1a Village Square, Brighton Marina
The EXECUTIVE Club at
BRIGHTON
Marina
For Introductions in Sussex
01273 818100

Join
an agency which is a member of the Association of British Introduction Agencies (a non-profit making organisation, est. 1981). Members abide by a strict Code of Practice, Office of Fair Trading supported.
Free List of Members/Code
0171 937 2800
or write to:
A.B.I.A. LONDON W8 6AT

ASSIGNATIONS
Lesley Hudson-Jessop
(ex Professional Headhunter)
Home interviews and professional skills lead to tailor made introductions
LONDON AND M4 CORRIDOR
01225 482905

31a St James's Square, London SW1V
Hedi Fisher's EXECUTIVE CLUB
for quality
JEWISH
• Personal Introductions • Dinner Parties
0181 203 4661
54-58 High Street, Edgware HA8 7EJ

31A St James's Square London SW1
The EXECUTIVE Club
Since 1985 people of quality have been introduced through our exclusive social events and superb introduction service. We invite membership to complement almost certainly the finest selection of unattached professionals in the UK.
• Personal introductions • Social events
0171 499 8833
http://www.executiveclub-uk.com/exec
WHY E.C.? Quite simply, it's because members of the Executive Club of St James's have a near unlimited choice of high quality members. We guarantee you the choice from AT LEAST 25 matched ACTIVE members in three months or REFUND YOUR FEE. (Others may offer to extend your membership period even if you have only had one date in a year). You are a member for life. Try us for six weeks and if YOU don't agree we are the finest service there is, we'll refund your fee towards any other dating service in the world – such is the quality of our service; and a wide choice of high quality social events each month.
E.C. THE BEST THERE IS – OR YOUR FEE REFUNDED
Brighton, Bristol, Exeter, London - Pall Mall, Edgware and throughout the UK.

Club STIRIUS
Free Profiles
Free Glossy Magazine
8.30am to 10.30pm 7 days a week or write to FREEPOST 305 London EC1B 1SY
Cert. Fascom
ABIA Member

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When meeting/ contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be. We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents

Dateline
"The U.K.'s largest agency..."
THE INDEPENDENT
For free details in absolute confidence: Dept N, Dateline, 25 Abingdon Rd, London W8 6AL
01869 324 100

MUSIC LOVERS
Classical Partners
"Astonishingly successful"
Daily Telegraph & BBC Radio 3
The Natural way to meet someone special individually or at our own musical supper evenings Classic FM/Radio 3 listeners welcome
Our 1st Concert/Supper
Bridgewater Hall MANCHESTER
Sat May 2nd
0121 503 6211 (Office)
01903 853526 E/Wends
Middlesex 01789 842280

Duke House, Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3DT
Caroline Crowther at THE EXECUTIVE CLUB
The quality personal introduction service and exclusive dinner parties for unattached professionals
0117 973 5877
S. Wales Hereford Oxford Reading Bath Bristol Exeter Torquay Plymouth Truro

" We have a problem - he's 98 and prefers older women ! "

KATHARINE ALLEN Marriage Bureau
18 Thayer Street London W1M 5LD
Tel : 0171 935 3115

dovetail
• adventure, fun and romance
• genuinely personal introductions
• quality professional business members
offices in London, Surrey, Sussex Avon/Somerset
0171 483 3377

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
Box No...
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD
P.O.BOX 3553
VIRGINIA ST
LONDON E1 9BL



RENDEZVOUS

TO PLACE AN AD...

BY PHONE
0171 481 4000

BY POST, FAX OR EMAIL
Post: please attach your wording to the coupon adjacent. Advertise for only £8.23 per line and a single box charge of £11.75, (box number is open-28 days)

All advertisers will now receive postal replies *and* voice mail response facility at no extra charge.

TO RESPOND TO AN AD...

BY VOICE MAIL
When responding to an advertiser call 0897 505 563 (*calls cost £1.00 per minute at all times*) and then follow the simple voice instructions.

BY POST
All postal replies should be addressed to Box No..... c/o The Times, P.O. Box 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.

Fax: 0171 481 9313 or E-mail: Lisa.Ball@newsint.co.uk

THE TIMES

RENDEZVOUS

NAME:
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
TEL(DAY):
ACCESS ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐
CARD NO:
EXPIRY DATE:
SIGNATURE:

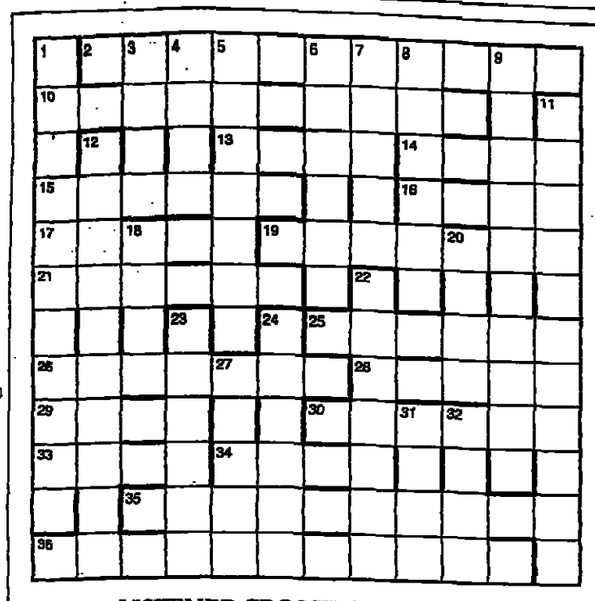
This offer is open to private advertisers only.
Trade advertisers will appear subject to normal rates and conditions.
Please attach your wording and send to: The Times Rendezvous, Classified Advertising, PO Box 484, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BL

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3457: Locating Omissions by Adam



EACH clue defines a word from which two, three, four or five consecutive letters have been removed to form the light.

Using A = 1, B = 2 . . . Z = 26 the letter sum of the excerpts, reduced by 36 if necessary, identifies the location of the light.

Definitions in the clues refer to the full, unmutilated answers; subsidiary indications refer to the mutilated form to be entered in the grid.

Clues are given for two-letter excerpts, then three, then four, then five-letter ones, in increasing order of the letter sum within each group.

All the answers are supported by *Chambers 93*, which gives one clue word, hyphenated in earlier editions, as two words.

CLUES

Home county has no old city — that's alarming
Charcoal, perhaps, that takes in gas (nitrogen?) in ice
Grandchild hides in old tree trunk, plastered
Drink slit in anger
One living abroad holding Kay's father coughed
Letter brought up — again — about jam machines in dairy
Nick has to kill in game reserve
Thrash the return of dialling tone
Puntpole's fit for use
Poet's heartless but a reveller
Enclose a lumen in a fish
Partners found a like throw of two dice
Consciousness without a yorker
Shellfish's denial in Tagalog language
What is past in a net is a fish — a
Callionymus
Jock's asking to confess about gym
Puts forward concert books
Cornish middleman's about round about
T-section like a triptych
An apparatus for drying things one has about eight gallons
Paddy's darling — one that's tender
Mapmakers in aged sandstone rich in feldspar
Something delightful — a farm in Provence — they protect against poisons
More than one connection that's found in a tree
Friends with amateur fighter
Study insects to ogle one maiden perhaps
Give details about bread under pressure rashly
Once elusive society has crude rubber
Mongoose? Not even sheep!
An experience of space upsets senses with gravity
Desire to own portable organs getting tax for it
Decorates a cake for water regulators
Voters take to heart an electrical instrument
Performers of singsong are enthusiastic about . . .
. . . An old tragic poet's that will do to slate
Devices fitted to satellites may create terror with cost

LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3457
in association with Waterstone's

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

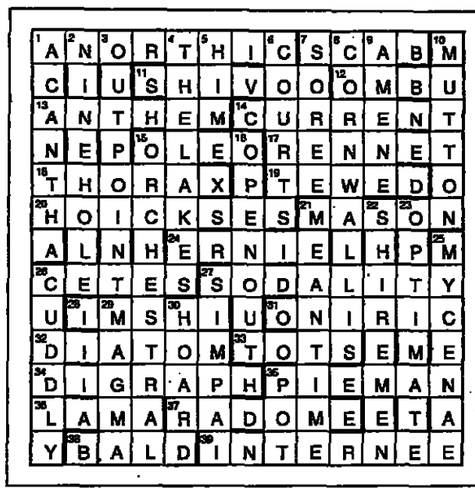
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3457, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, April 23.

W
WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in almost every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 01225 448595.



Solution and Notes for No. 3454
Mixed Pairs by Ploutos

m ountainto p = outpoint + nam & mutton + piano
i *mpediment a = meantime + dip & pieman + timed*
x anthochro i = anorthic + hox & thorax + chino
e netertaine r = internee + rat & rennet + terai
d idactyloou s = soldality + cud & cuddly + ostia

The winners are C.M.V. and B.M. Shadbolt, of Rusper, West Sussex.

The runners up are S.J. Best, of Nottingham; Steve Osborn, of Dover, Kent; Roy Dean, of Bromley, Kent; Paul Chapman, of Colchester, Essex; Roy Abrey, of Epsom, Surrey.

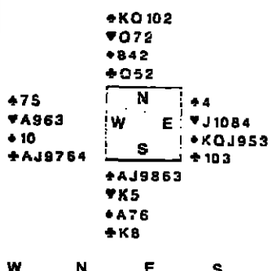
● *For 1997 crossword statistics and personal records send a 110mmx230mm SAE to J.E. Green, c/o 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Herts AL3 6HE. Please keep separate from puzzle entries.*

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE DECLARER'S task on this hand looks hopeless. But he saw a line easy to miss at double-dummy.

Dealer West — Love all — IMPs



W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	3 D	3 S
Pass	4 S	All Pass	

Contract: Four Spades by South
Lead: ten of diamonds

After the diamond lead it looks as though the declarer has only nine tricks — the only way to generate an extra trick by force is to find East with Ax or A alone in one of the rounded suits, and in that case he will have an entry to cash his diamonds. So what is to be done?

The Swedish international Frederic Wrang spotted the possibilities of an end-play. He could see from the bidding that the diamonds were 6-1, and he had to hope West had *the missing aces. He won the* first diamond, drew trumps with king and ace and played the eight of clubs towards the queen. It would not help West to play the ace, so he ducked. Declarer played the queen and continued with another club. West took the ace and played a third club. When East showed out declarer discarded a diamond, leaving West with two losing options — to lead a heart away from the ace to give declarer two tricks in that suit, or to play a further club and concede a ruff and discard.

Say East had had more than two clubs; then West might have been able to lead a low club on the third round, allowing East to hold the trick (though if West had for example AJ1098 that would not be possible). But then declarer would ruff, and play hearts as he did clubs. Only if the defence were also able to let East win the third round in that suit would he have been defeated.

Notice that playing away from the king of clubs is better than playing the king first — it makes it *more difficult for West to unblock from say AJ107*, and it ensures East has to play after West to the third round of the suit. Thus declarer can see which defender is holding the trick before deciding whether to ruff and try the same manoeuvre in hearts.

■ From next week I will be running a series of lessons for beginners in the Friday column in Sport. I will be starting from scratch, but after a few weeks I *hope that the reminders of the basic* principles will be of interest to regular readers. And please point out to anyone keen to learn bridge that *The Times* on Fridays will be a must for the next few months.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

ANTWERP SMERLE
(a) A pigeon developed in the UK by crossing a Belgian breed with a Turbit, in order to achieve a changed head. It is moderate in size, hard in flesh, and tight and smooth in feather.

VACREATION
(b) A treatment for removing pong from cream, developed in New Zealand. Cream is heated to 200°F by steam. The smells are removed with water vapour by distillation under vacuum.

FLEAM
(a) A medieval lancet for drawing blood. *It was straight, with a downward* projecting, small, sharp, fixed blade. The blade was pressed over a distended vein and given a sharp tap with a hardwood *mallet.*

FORIANA
(a) An old Italian dance in 6/8 time. The form has been used by classical composers, for instance *J. S. Bach's Overture (suite) in C* for orchestra. Also Ravel's *Tombeau de Couperin.*

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36

Question 1:
Kennedy, Jefferson, Washington and Clinton were or are all Presidents of the United States. Franklin is the exception.

Question 2:
4, if two consecutive numbers in the first row are added and the result halved, i.e. (35 + 37)/2 = 36. Thus (5 +3)/2 = 4

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

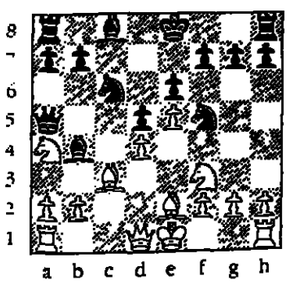
IN THE SEARCH for weapons against main line defences, grandmasters are constantly on the *lookout for systems which have* been neglected or forgotten but which may still be able to throw the unwary or ill-informed opponent. *My System*, the 1920s bible of chess strategy by Aron Nimzowitsch, is a handbook on Nimzowitsch's favourite 3 e5 against the French Defence, known as the Advance Variation. When successful, the Advance Variation may exert a fatally cramping influence on Black's prospects.

White: John Nunn; Black: Eckhard Schmittdiel
Dortmund 1991
French Defence

1	e4	e6	2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5	4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Qb6	6	Be2	cxd4
7	cxd4	Nh6	8	Nc3	Nf5
9	Na4				

White uses tactics to defend his d-pawn. The alternative 9 Kf1 also seems to defend d4, as 9 . . . Ncxd4 *can be met by* 10 Na4 Qb4 11 Bd2 Qe7 12 Bg5. However, the simple 9 . . . Bd7 10 Na4 Qd8 11 Bf4 Be7 is fine for Black, as in Möhring v Uhlmann, East Germany 1982.

9	. . .	Qa5+	10	Bd2	Bb4
11	Bc3	b5			



The game Nimzowitsch v Spielmann, Stockholm 1920, continued instead with the passive 11 . . . Bd7 12 a3 Bxc3+ 13 Nxc3 h5 14 0-0 *Rac8* 15 Qd2 Qd8 when White had a secure grip on the position and went on to win after a lengthy endgame. *The crucial variation as given by* Nimzowitsch is 11 . . . Bxc3+ 12 Nxc3 Qb6 13 Bb5 0-0 14 Bxc6 Qxb2 15 Na4 Qb4+ 16 Qd2 Qxd2+ 17 Kxd2 *bxc6* 18 Nc5. Black has an extra pawn but White's grip on the dark squares counters this.

12 a3	Bxc3+	13 Nxc3	b4 . . .
14 axb4	*Qxb4*		

Black has managed to open up the queenside should White wish to attack on the kingside.

15 Bb5	Bd7	16 Bxc6	

Relieving the pressure on d4.

16 . . .	Bxc6	17 Qd2	Bb5

Black intends to exchange his bishop so White's space advantage does not count for too much. But this move loses valuable time. Instead 17 . . . 0-0 18 0-0 Rfb8 19 Rab1 leads to a fairly level position.

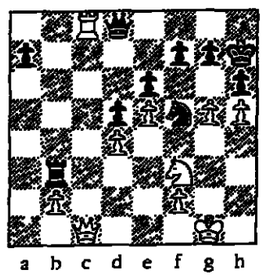
18 Nxb5	Qxb5	19 Ra5	Qb6

19 . . . Qc4 20 Qc3 offers White *better prospects in the endgame.*

20 0-0	0-0	21 Rc1	Rab8		
22 Rc2	h6	23 Rac5	Rb7		

White cannot expect to make too *many inroads on the queenside*, so he must turn to the kingside.

24 g4	Ne7	25 h4	Rfb8		
26 h5	Qd8	27 Qc1	Qf8		
28 g5	Kh7	29 Qf4	Nf5		
30 Rc7	Qd8	31 Qc1	Rb3		
32 Rc8	Rxc8	33 Rxc8			



Black now underestimates the danger; he could have kept White at bay with 33 . . . Qb6 34 Rf8 Qa6.

33 . . .	Qa5?		

This is fatally slow.

34 Qc6!	Qa1+		

It is too late to save the game, as 34 . . . Rxf3 35 Rh8+! Kxh8 36 Qe8+ Kh7 37 g6+ fxg6 38 hxg6 is mate.

35 Kg2	Nh4+	36 Nxh4	

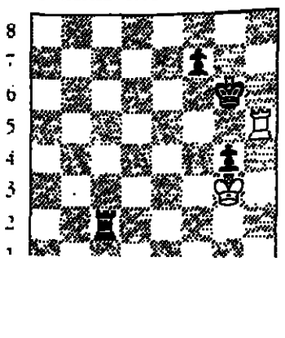
Black resigns

● *The above game is from* The French Advance *by grandmaster Tony Kosten in the series of Chess Press Opening Guides (Cadogan Books, £14.99).*

WINNING MOVE

by Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sveshnikov — Sermek, Nova Gorica 1998. Two pawns down, White's cause appears hopeless. However, he saved himself with a neat trick. Can you see it?



The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition:
1 . . Qg2+

. . . Mr A Bacon, of

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE PROBLEM with cute websites is that they do not always stay cute for very long. One week they serve up harmless and endearing fun, the next the contents head down the bad-taste road and can easily be deemed offensive.

The Cha Cha Baby site *(http://www.creativelink.com/baby/)* is a perfect example. The site offered a brief but appealing animated video clip of Cha Cha Baby dancing around and took a few minutes to download ready for playing. The sequence showed the wobbly pot-bellied baby dancing a few steps. Although short and without musical accompaniment, the clip was captivating to watch to both children and adults.

Now when you head to the one-page site there is a second Cha Cha Baby video to download and view. In this the fictitious tot staggers around drunk and incontinent, can of beer in hand with a cigarette dangling from his mouth. For cute, now read crass. *It means the site is no longer suitable for children and emphasises the need for constant* parental supervision when youngsters are let loose on the Internet.



The captivating dancing baby that was corrupted by adults

CYBERSPACE Forty-Two serves up no less than £5,000 worth of *prizes including exclusive Lara* Croft memorabilia and stacks of best-selling Eidos Interactive titles. It is open to readers of all ages, and we have plenty of spoils for our three overall winners as well as the ten runners-up.

Three winners will walk away with the latest in video-gaming chic as well as towering piles of software. *Each will scoop a signed and* framed A3 Lara Croft artwork original, like a cartoon or storyboard used in making the Tomb Raider titles in which Lara stars. They will also win a *limited-edition* Lara Croft flying jacket, with a picture of Lara on the back, worth £200. There are just 100 such jackets in existence.

Our trio will also pick up plenty of software. First, PC CD-Rom copies of Tomb Raider II with the merchandising pack Lethal, Loaded and Irresistible: Everything You Ever Wanted from Lara Croft, including Lara T-shirt, mousemat, playing cards and pictures. And that's not all. They also get a further ten Eidos Interactive titles — a mix of PlayStation and PC CD-Rom formats for optimum family *fun.*

Ten runners-up will walk away with equally attractive prize bundles. They'll each win a navy blue Eidos Interactive fleece jacket plus exactly the same software stacks as our main winners — Tomb Raider II and the Lara Croft merchandising pack plus ten other assorted Eidos best-sellers.

The theme for Cyberspace Forty-Two is "HAL's Revenge — Two Thousand and Gone". To enter, *you must imagine that you are on a* life-support machine and HAL, Arthur C. Clarke's menacing computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, decides to turn you off. You have four minutes to convince him to turn you back on. In no more than 150 words, continue the following conversation in the funniest possible way: "*Don't do it, HAL . . .*"

Equally important is the second part of the competition. Paramount Pictures has won the rights to Lara Croft for a movie spin-off. The search is on to cast Lara and frontrunners include Liz Hurley and Rhona Mitra who presents the Pepsi Chart Show. For part two of Cyberspace Forty-Two, nominate the most unsuitable person to play the snake-hipped hero and explain your reasons.

Your entry must include your name, address and telephone number. Since Tomb Raider II carries a 15 certificate, if you are younger please get your parents' permission before entering and include your age in your details. Postal entries should be sent to Cyberspace Forty-Two, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. E-mail entries may be sent to cyber@dircon.co.uk so long as they *are headed Cyberspace Forty-Two.* The competition closes on Tuesday April 21. Normal *Times* competition rules apply.

CROSS WORDS

Answers from page 36

domination, cosh, nett, egad

NEW SOFTWARE

BEFORE BBC Television started serving up regular dollops of controversy and mind-numbing creations like the Teletubbies, the National Lottery Big Ticket and News 24 — it had a reputation second to none. One area in which it excelled was natural history programmes and, miraculously, this tradition along with its Bristol-based Natural History Unit have survived relatively unscathed.

One of the long-running successes of the unit has been its children's series, *The Really Wild Show*. Now it has helped to produce the *Really Wild Show* CD-Rom which, like the programmes, is fronted by Michaela Strachan.

The result is an engrossing and well-rounded colourful title for children aged seven and over. Its most charming feature is the Beast Blender, a software version of those split-page children's books mixing animal heads with different bodies.

There are four worlds to explore, each are local habitats for a multitude of animals. Users click away in the panoramic worlds to discover the title's 50 or so animals. By answering questions, these can then be collected for later feeding *into the Beast Blender to make up* to 30 unlikely crossbreeds.

Equally delightful are the Art Cave, a prehistoric art studio where *children are encouraged* to paint on the walls, the four minor games and the Wild Side screensaver.

■ **Verdict: 8 out of 10. Smashing children's animal safari. £24.99.**

IF YOU think it is only paranoid Hollywood that is still obsessed with the battle between East and West and perpetually reliving the Cold War then think again. Now



A really wild CD-Rom for children

Battlezone is set in 1960 with President Kennedy setting up an *elite fighting force to find, claim* and export reserves of a precious bio-metal ahead of the Ruskies. The race continues on various planets around the galaxy, with inevitable warfare to be raged between yanks and Reds wherever you land.

The game is played two ways simultaneously, accommodated by a dual-view mode showing a radar overview of the battlefield as well as a first-person perspective view. You have full tactical control over your elite force, which can boast troops in 30 different types of vehicle armed with 25 different weapons. But one click puts you at the wheel of any vehicle in the thick of the action for more immersing escapism.

Battlezone is based on an Atari title of the same name from 1980. This was apparently the world's first first-person-perspective game, which merely shows how badly Atari missed the bandwagon. Within ten years others cleaned up on the genre, like id Software with Wolfenstein 3D, Doom et al.

■ **Verdict: 8 out of 10. Split-screen, split personality combat sim. £9.99.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 157

L	U	C	I	F	E	R		R	E	C	U	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N		A	K	I	M	B	O
O		A		R		E		A		O		H		A		R		D				R		O		U
W	I	T	H	O	N	E	S	N	O	S	E	I	N	T	H	E	A	I	R		T	U	R	R	E	T
K		T		M		D		K		H		L		C		P		O		D		G		E		B
E	L	L	I	P	T	I	C	A	L		L	I	G	H	T	H	O	U	S	E	K	E	E	P	E	R
Y		E		I		E		N		P		P		E		I		S		N		R		O		E
			C	L	O	S	E	D	S	H	O	P		T	E	N	T		O	V	E	R	A	W	E	D
A		L		L		T		F		I		I				E		G		E		A		E		
L	E	E	W	A	Y		B	I	L	L	I	A	R	D		S	O	L	A	R	E	N	E	R	G	Y
I		F		R		P		L		H		N		E				O		B		D		T		A
C	U	T	I	T	F	I	N	E		A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y	R	O	O	M		M	O	O	N
E		H		O		E				R				E		I		I		O		C		Y		K
S	C	A	M	P	E	R		A	R	M	I	G	E	R		F	R	O	N	T	A	L	L	O	B	E
P		N		O				N		O		I		I		E		L				E		U		E
R	I	D	E	S	H	O	T	G	U	N		B	A	T	I	S	T	E		M	O	R	D	R	E	D
I		E		T		R		S		I		B				C				O		K		E		O
N	O	D	E		F	A	I	T	A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I		I	M	B	R	O	G	L	I	O
G		C		M		N		R				U		L		E		N		S		F		B		D
S	M	O	K	I	N	G	R	O	O	M		S	T	A	G	N	A	T	E		S	T	R	O	L	L
		M		L		E		M		I				S		C		E		M		H		W		E
D	E	P	I	L	A	T	E		O	S	S	A		T	I	E	B	R	E	A	K	E	R			
O		L		S		R		A		S		L		E		S		C		L		C		M		W
W	H	I	S	T	L	E	I	N	T	H	E	D	A	R	K		C	E	R	T	I	O	R	A	R	I
A		M		R		E		G		A		E		C		S		P		R		U		N		N
G	R	E	T	E	L		K	E	E	P	A	N	E	A	R	T	O	T	H	E	G	R	O	U	N	D
E		N		A				L		E		T		S		U		O		A		S		A		U
R	E	T	I	M	E		C	O	U	N	T	E	R	T	E	N	O	R		T	O	E	C	L	I	P

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is N.H. Hart, of Burton on Trent, Staffordshire

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q Before the practice becomes extinct, I would like to know if there is a correct way in which women should curtsy when presented to a member of the Royal Family. In particular, which leg should go back? Following lively debate while we awaited the arrival of HRH recently, my mother-in-law curtsied with her left leg, a friend curtsied with her right, and I got in a muddle. — *Name and address withheld.*

A The choice of leg is governed largely by comfort, although clever curtsyers place the left leg in front of the right, making sure the right foot is half-bent and the left one placed flat on the ground in a slightly "turned out" position. It is important to bend at the knees (keeping them together) and not in the back, so that eye contact can be maintained.

Q Please could we have your views on the correct menus for guests who are vegetarians. As a hostess, I will cook accordingly, and for other guests I will provide meat or fish in some form not overtly offensive to the vegetarian. But I have recently been told this is bad form and that the *entire* meal should be strictly vegetarian. *It seems to me* that one's main purpose in inviting guests is to create a good social atmosphere with food and wine that all will enjoy enormously. But how? — Mrs P. Wilford-Smith, Ledbury, Herefordshire.



A This is political correctness gone too far: there is no need for your carnivorous friends to be unwitting victims of vegetarianism. After all, just as your non-meat eating guest would not be amused to be force-fed *filet de boeuf*, so well-mannered vegetarians will always strive to cause as little inconvenience as possible. The enlightened hostess should make various gastronomic gestures. These include a salad-based first course, imaginatively cooked vegetables, fish, poultry or game rather than red meat, no gelatine-based puddings and, if necessary, discrete vegetarian substitutes for meat dishes.

Q I feel that the letter from Mrs Morris (March 21) has *highlighted a problem of our times*. While accepting your reply, I find that it falls short of answering my particular case, as my "partner" in life is also my partner in business. If I introduce Caroline as my partner, it is assumed that I am only referring to our business relationship when, in fact, our commitment is much greater than that. — David R. Paton, Croyde, North Devon.

A Sadly I do not know of a suitable term, although I am delighted to receive any suggestions. Many people preface "partner" with "business" when they wish to denote a professional arrangement rather than a private relationship, so I suggest you introduce Caroline as "my girlfriend and business partner".

Q We have a spate of fiftieth birthdays this year and have been to three in the past few months. When we arrive, presents are put on a side table, to open after we have departed. We have never had a thank-you note from anyone. We don't even know if they liked their presents. — Mrs J. M. Webb, Marlow, Bucks.

A The thank-you letter is known to be an endangered species among the ungrateful young, but to hear that it might be in a similar decline with the unappreciative middle-aged is sad indeed. Happily, polite people of all ages still send written thank-yous for presents received. These should be promptly dispatched: rather like *rare blooms, thank*-you letters lose their lustre the longer they are left.

Q I have tried to acquire wedding invitations with the wording "to" rather than "with", as you recently advised, ie, "Mr and Mrs X request the pleasure of your company at the marriage of their daughter Y to" rather than "with Mr Z". Most books of samples at stores have the wording "with". My grandmother, usually reliable on such matters, also insists "with" is correct. — Mrs Sarah Wise, Abindgon, Northampton.

A With all due respect to your grandmother, the use of "to" is considered much more elegant than "with". You must decide which model you feel more comfortable with.

Q When older and younger people of both sexes enter a restaurant, is it customary for the *men of the party to go first or* should the ladies do so? Are there any customs as to whether older or younger members of the party should go first? — Frean Finchley, London N3.

A This depends on whether a party is being led to the table by a member of staff or is making its own way. In the former case the employee would lead, followed by the female contingent (technically age would precede beauty), followed by the men in order of age, unless the elder is the host, in which case he would be last. In the latter model the most senior man or host will lead the way followed by the women with the second man entering last.

● *The author is Associate Editor of* GQ



WORD WATCHING

by Philip Howard

ANTWERP SMERLE
a. Diamond chippings
b. A fancy bird
c. Belgian smog

VACREATION
a. The Big Bang
b. Deodorant
c. A holiday task

FLEAM
a. A lancet
b. A medallion
c. Mould

FORIANA
a. A dance form
b. Collection of writings
c. Flower arranging

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

I enjoy hearing from readers and would particularly like to hear from people who have established well-authenticated mental world records or who have comments or revisions on records published here. Chetan Shah of Wandsworth has written to point out that the number of seconds in 70 years, 17 days and 12 hours is 2,210,544,000, and not 2,210,500,800 *(we had not allowed for the 12 hours).*

Question 1:
Who is the odd one out?
Denkyen, Joseffern, Hasingtown, Nonticl, Linkranf

Question 2:
Find the missing number:
35 37 13 5 3
36 25 9 ??

Answers on page 35

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

Apart from abbreviations, setters have other resources for dealing with fragments. Beginnings and endings of words offer great flexibility. Take a word like CHATTER, that can be broken into C + HATTER. We need definitions of HATTER and CHATTER, and some way of indicating C. HATTER suggests the mad character, and, checking the thesaurus, RABBIT conveniently pops up as a synonym for CHATTER. Staying with the emerging theme, C is the first letter of "Carroll". Put it all together: **Rabbit created by Carroll, initially — one of his eccentric characters (7).** "Initially" and "finally" are often obvious pointers to the first or last letter, but we can be more subtle. Instead of the hackneyed "youth leader" Y could be "close of play", "journey's end", and so on — when possible, the expression should fit neatly with the rest of the clue. More generally, a letter in position may be pinpointed — Y could also be "fourth of July" or "Haydn's third". Centres of words may be single letters or more — "centre of gravity" for V, "sweetheart" for E (not everyone's cup of tea), "Heart of Midlothian" for OT or LOTH.

Sometimes beginnings of several words may be combined, as in: **Result of leaders of despotic organisation manipulating innocent people? (10)** (an example of an "& Lit" clue, where the build-up serves simultaneously as the definition). The extreme case is the acronymic clue, in which the whole answer is a combination of first letters, thus: **Weapon appearing originally in "Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (4).** A similar ploy strings together last letters, as in: **Clear conclusions reached by stern judge affect verdict (4).** Yet another variant is to use alternate letters: **Oath used in odd parts of England (4).** Used sparingly, any of these devices — provided it isn't too obvious — can yield an effective clue.

● *The writer is Crossword Editor of* The Times

Clue answers on p35

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what was said when Tony Blair and his wife Cherie met the teenage winners of a foreign-office competition to be "Ambassador for the Day".

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions — only on postcards, please — with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.
The closing date is Wednesday, April 15.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Mrs Elizabeth Lloyd, of Braishfield, Hampshire.

GILL ALLEN



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Zip me up before you go go." — *Sun headline on pop star George Michael's arrest for alleged sex act in a public lavatory*

"Thank God for the paparazzi. They can kill but they can also save." — *Rolling Stone Ron Wood after being rescued from a burning motorboat by photographers following him*

"He should be sent away — to the Isle of Wight for instance." — *East End mother on released paedophile Sidney Cooke*

"This is no time for soundbites . . . I feel the hand of history on our shoulders." — *Prime Minister Tony Blair on the Northern Ireland peace talks*

"The best time (to have sex) was when there were flying operations because there is lots of noise." — *Evidence at court-martial of Lieutenant-Colonel Commander Keith Pople accused of an affair with Lieutenant-Commander Karen Pearce*

"Grant came back because he loves me, pure and simple." — *Della Bovey after winning her husband back from television presenter Anthea Turner*

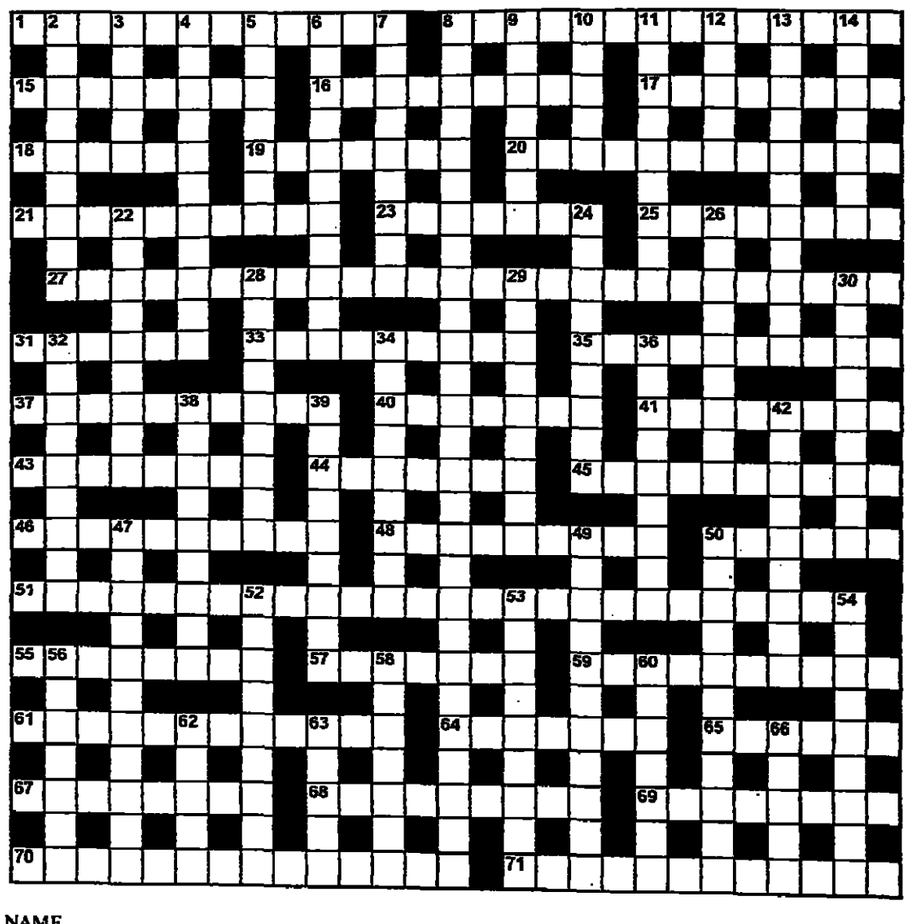
"I think the Spice Girls are like a drug. It's like heroin . . . They can't help but absorb it, even if they are sick of it." — *Geri "Ginger Spice" Halliwell suggests young fans are addicted to her band*

"Frankly I take umbrage at this. It makes us sound like a Third World village without any water." — *Resident of Gloucester housing estate to which Oxfam has sent an Indian aid worker*

"The newspaper was aware when it published it that the biography was a spoof." — The Daily Telegraph *refers to* The Sunday Telegraph's *reprinting on April 5 of long extracts from William Boyd's hoax biography of "artist" Nat Tate*

EASTER JUMBO CROSSWORD 159

In our bumper Easter Jumbo Crossword competition, a prize of £100 will be awarded for the first correct solution opened on Thursday, April 23, 1998. Entries should be sent to: Easter Jumbo 159, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday April 25.



NAME .....
ADDRESS .....
..... POSTCODE .....

Times Two Crossword Easter Jumbo

There is no prize for this crossword. The solution will be published on Monday, April 13

ACROSS

1 Opposite numbers (12)
8 Laurence Sterne novel (8,6)
15 Water tortoise (8)
16 Diversion (9)
17 *Clap into* jail (8)
18 To mount (6)
19 Short operatic solo (7)
20 Verse form of eg Racine (12)
21 Causing puzzlement (10)
23 Concert by soloist (7)
25 Area outside visible spectrum (5-3)
27 Got in first with same speech (4,3,5,3,2,4,5)
31 Absent-minded (6)
33 Hindu love manual (9)
35 Proverbially squashed container (7,3)
37 Lined up wrong (10)
40 *Seagull* playwright (7)
41 Peeking: grazing (blow) (8)
43 Supranational police (8)
44 Bills; sounds like *verifies* (7)
45 Type of ballpoint pen (10)
46 Put to rights, into sequence (3,2,5)
48 (Univ.) finals results (5,4)
50 Send away (6)
51 Twice the price, painted (5,5,8,8)
55 Loud cries (8)
57 Glossy coating (7)
59 Extensively (spread) (3,3,4)
61 Surpassing (understanding) (12)
64 Limp (7)
65 Subjects of debate (6)
67 Praise; an honour (8)
68 Eliza —, *Pygmalion* flower-seller (9)
69 It showers happy couple (8)
70 Repair of body appearance (7,7)
71 Lack of mercy (12)

DOWN

2 Went beyond budget (9)
3 Care for, tend to (5)
4 Suitably, beneficially (11)
5 One from Lahore, Chandigarh (7)
6 Old British Museum study area (7,4)
7 Protected (window)(9)
8 *Nutcracker* celesta solo *(Tchaikovsky)* (3,5,2,3,5,4,5)
9 Approximate (7)
10 Heading (5)
11 Stir, anxiety (9)
12 Tasting pleasant (5)
13 One bought by the unwary (1,3,2,1,4)
14 Bishop's area (7)
22 Prone (in eg submission) (9)
24 Pool guard; great relief *(fig.)* (4-5)
26 Enchant (9)
28 Excited, set on fire (9)
29 Packing cases (3,6)
30 Mus. instruments; math. figures (9)
32 Set of customers (9)
34 One given unthinking protection (6,3)
36 Verdi hunchback jester opera (9)
38 On spur of moment (9)
39 Concerned with dogma (9)
42 Air stewards (5,4)
47 Humiliating (11)
49 Working poorly (11)
50 (US) solid old apartment blocks (11)
52 *Those* unable to be here (9)
53 Wind from Siberia (3-6)
54 Devotes; inscribes (9)
56 As *Golden Treasury* poetry (7)
58 Positive terminal (7)
60 Fundamental (7)
62 S. Am. mammal, raccoon-like (5)
63 A tree; church official (5)
66 Look after feathers (5)